



THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW + MEDIA

Ten years on, Lockerbie still awaits its moment of justice and truth

BY MARY BRAID

IT WAS a poignant moment. As the people of Lockerbie gathered at the town's Dryfesdale cemetery yesterday with the American relatives of those who perished on Pan Am flight 103, a child clasped the hand of an adult and gazed up at the Border skies in which the Boeing 747 was blown apart exactly 10 years ago.

Yesterday was an international day of remembrance for the 259 passengers who died in the terrorist attack, and the 11 Lockerbie victims killed when the plane crashed to earth. While some 20 American families travelled to Scotland, British relatives of the bomb victims came together at Westminster Cathedral.

The Westminster gathering was designed to take attention away from Lockerbie, where many would now like the town to move on from the tragedy.

Even Bill Clinton took a few moments away from the upheavals of presidential impeachment and the Iraq crisis to remember the crash. Under clammy skies he led a short service at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia, and dedicated a cairn of 270 stones to the dead – one for every victim.

Another service was held simultaneously in Syracuse, in Upstate New York, on the campus of the city university that lost 35 students when the plane was bombed out of the sky. They had been returning home for the Christmas holidays.

Yesterday was not just a day of pain, but also of frustration. Ten years after the tragedy, Western governments are yet to deliver justice to the families of those who died.

Though there have been many false dawns, these are more hopeful times. The US and British governments have agreed to proposals for Scottish justice to be exercised on foreign soil and Libya has backed the scheme for two of its nationals – suspects in the outrage – to be tried by an international court.

Yesterday the politicians were still promising the families they would bring those responsible for the tragedy to justice. Tony Blair, promising to enlist the help of South African president Nelson Mandela to try the Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.



Friends and relatives of the 270 victims of the air crash attending a memorial service at Dryfesdale Cemetery in Lockerbie yesterday on the 10th anniversary of the disaster

Jeff Mitchell

Colonel Gaddafi was mean-while telling Dutch television he wanted the men accused of planting the Lockerbie bomb tried by an international court.

The diplomatic initiatives have warmed the heart of those who have fought to keep the atrocity in the public eye. But for the past decade has also built up distrust of politicians, with families now convinced that their own governments failed to pass

on warnings that a terrorist attack was imminent.

Politicians, it seems, continue to speak with forked tongues. Yesterday's statement by Colonel Gaddafi actually muddied the waters. For he called for judges from 'America, Libya, England and other countries' to be involved when the plan acceptable to the US and Britain specifies three Scottish judges.

The frustration with politicians was alluded to yesterday at Dryfesdale during the low key ceremony at which the sole official event was the laying of a wreath by the Duke of Edinburgh at the town's cemetery.

Fr Patrick Keegans, the priest who provided spiritual help to the victims' families, spoke almost directly to the dead. 'You will see us laying wreaths at your stone,' he said.

'We want you to be sure that these wreaths are not hollow empty gestures but a statement and declaration full of promise.'

'Ten years ago, for you and for us, a bomb was ticking. Know this, there is another bomb ticking, the irresistible bomb of justice and truth. Know this, that our wreath-laying today is not a symbolic gesture. It is a declaration that we will not rest until we have justice and truth, until all responsible for your deaths are held accountable.'

Yesterday, the families made yet another appeal to their politicians to get it right this time. They asked Mr Blair and President Clinton not to jeopardise the prospect of a trial of the two Libyan suspects with threats of renewed military action in the Middle East in the wake of the Iraqi bombings.

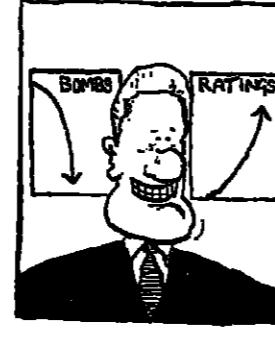
Clinton wins record approval in the polls

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

100 points, banishing fears that the markets would be unsettled by Mr Clinton's flight.

While insisting impeachment was 'permanent' and had brought 'profound disgrace' to Mr Clinton, former presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford called for a Senate censure rather than a trial as the first step towards healing a national wound that was 'grievous and deepening'. In a joint *New York Times* article they said Mr Clinton should acknowledge he lied under oath in exchange for a deal that he would not be prosecuted for perjury when he left office.

In New York the two main Wall Street indices, the Dow and the Nasdaq, shot up during the first hour of trading, with the Dow gaining more than



Calls for a compromise also came from editorials in newspapers across America.
Washington in crisis, Pages 10 and 11

Blair under fire over support for bombing

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

that Saddam has of a coup by his own officers,' said the Prime Minister's official spokesman.

The 'success' claimed by Mr Blair when he announced the end of the bombing on Saturday was turning into a public relations fiasco as RAF pilots, a Labour peer, and the Tories criticised the campaign.

Downing Street responded with claims that the bombing had been targeted at sites including the presidential bunker in Baghdad to fuel Saddam Hussein's fears of a coup. 'The specific thinking behind these targets is to build on to the fears

lots who said they were "gutted" at being ordered to call off their last raid could not see the "full picture". With all the RAF crews back safely in Kuwait, the Tories ended the cross-party support for the air strikes and demanded to know what the point of them had been.

William Hague, the Tory leader, last night said Saddam should not just be 'kept in his cage but knocked off his perch'.

In Baghdad, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said the strikes had killed 62 military personnel. He added that the attacks had ended UN arms inspections. 'The attacks "killed Unicom" he said, referring to the UN weapons inspectors.

Saddam breathes easy, page 5

Alone but Traumatised



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Doctors battle to save octuplets

DOCTORS WERE fighting last night to save eight babies born to a woman in a Texas hospital.

On Sunday, Nkem Chukwu became the first woman to give birth to a living set of octuplets. All eight were in critical condition yesterday, with the newborn on ventilators. The oldest child, born at 22oz 12 days ago, was making progress, according to Leonard Weisman, head of the neonatology department at Texas Children's Hospital.

Dr Weisman said premature babies such as these have an 85 per cent chance of surviving. "They are all critically ill, though several are showing improvement," he said.

Mrs Chukwu was so anxious to keep her babies growing inside her that she spent three weeks lying still on a special hospital bed with her head tipped at a drastic angle to the floor.

Her uterus was so crowded that doctors weren't even sure how many foetuses were in there. They offered to abort one

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
Los Angeles

or two to give the others a better chance of survival, but the tenacious Texas woman turned them down. Instead, she offered to give up food and drink and go on to an intravenous drip to give the babies more room.

The last seven, five girls and two boys weighing between 10.3 and 26 ounces, were delivered by Caesarean section at St Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. They were immediately whisked into intensive care at another hospital where they joined their sister who was born vaginally 12 days earlier.

It is likely to be at least two months before the babies - assuming they survive - will be fit to go home. The older one was born 15 weeks premature and the others 13 weeks premature, a stage of development that would give a single foetus an 85 per cent chance of survival. The statistics for multiple births

are not known, but are likely to be significantly bleaker.

It was a remarkable achievement for all eight to make it out of the womb alive. Doctors praised the attitude of the 27-year-old mother, who was described by her paediatrician, Patti Savick, as "a very unusual woman, both physically and personally".

"She is quite tall, at least six feet, and very focused, a very spiritual, serene person," Dr Savick said. "She did what she needed to do."

"She was a model patient," said Brian Kirshon, an obstetrician specialising in high-risk births, who delivered the babies. "I think she is remarkable in that she was able to tolerate such conditions. She kept a positive attitude and was willing to do whatever it took."

Both Mrs Chukwu and her husband, Iyke, a respiratory therapist, are naturalised immigrants from Nigeria who had been trying unsuccessfully to



Doctors Brian Kirshon (left), Patti Savick and Leonard Weisman said the babies' condition was critical Reuters

have children for some time. Using hormone fertility treatment to stimulate the production of ova, Mrs Chukwu became pregnant with triplets at the end of last year but lost them in the early stages.

She became pregnant again almost immediately and quick-

ly understood she was carrying a large number of foetuses: she spent two-and-a-half-months in hospital under close observation. After the first birth, Mrs Chukwu was given strong drugs to halt uterine contractions, drugs that forced doctors to perform a post-natal operation yes-

terday to stop internal bleeding. The Caesarean was attended by 25 medical professionals.

Her case is likely to trigger debate about the wisdom of fertility treatment leading to multiple pregnancies, given the dangers and costs involved. While the children risk conditions such as cerebral palsy, blindness and heart and lung defects, the mother exposes herself to the risk of diabetes or acute high blood pressure.

"The human being was meant to have one baby," Dr Kirshon said. "It will be a remarkable feat if all the babies survive."

Mrs Chukwu is expected to stay in hospital until the end of the week, by which time doctors will have a better idea of her babies' chances of survival.

"All are being kept sleepy and quiet under a plastic blanket on a warming bed and have been treated with surfactant replacement to help with premature lung disease," Dr Weisman said.

Parents of previous multiple-birth babies in the United States have sought corporate sponsorship and assistance through private fund-raising, with varying degrees of success. When Bobbi McCaughey gave birth to septuplets in Iowa last year, all of whom have survived, she and her husband Kenny were offered a newly built house, a 15-seater van, car seats, strollers, limitless nappies and a 16-year supply of apple juice and apple sauce.

By contrast, Linden and Jacqueline Thompson, parents of five surviving sextuplets born around the same time as the septuplets in Washington DC, received next to nothing until news reports suggested their raw deal was due to the fact they were black while the McCaugheys were white.

They have since received nappies, an offer of free day-care and clothing - but no car and only a reduced price on a house that they still cannot afford.

Author's £5m bequest provides poetic justice for Oxford college

BY JOHN WALSH

THE CONTROVERSIAL world of Oxford poetry received a pleasant shock yesterday with the news that an eccentric, and mostly unread, British author has bequeathed £5m to an Oxford college, to endow a fellowship specifically devoted to teaching students how to write poetry.

Christopher Tower, who died on 21 September aged 83, set up a foundation before his death for the creation of two senior teaching posts at his old college, Christchurch. One is a junior research fellowship in Greek mythology. The other, more importantly, is a Poetry Studentship - a modest title for a major academic job, teaching and lecturing in the black arts of metre, rhyme, scansion and sublimity, across the university.

Mr Tower's bequest will also pay for the running of the Christopher Tower Poetry Prize, an annual competition open to sixth-formers, in which the winning versifiers will secure a prize of £1,000 for their school as well as £1,000 for themselves. Mr Tower has thus cunningly ensured that schools all over the nation will encourage their students to write poetry at prize-winning levels of brilliance.

The Tower bequest could hardly have come at a better time for the Oxford English faculty. Ever since the Oxford University Press publishing house voted to drop its poetry list on 20 November, a state of hostility and resentment has prevailed in the university town. Expressions of sympathy for the 36 sacked poets - some of them world-famous, some tipped for the Poet Laureateship, some about to celebrate their career-crowning collected works - have filled the newspapers.

Heated views have been exchanged between university administrators, English literature dons and the unsmiling businessmen at the OUP - the press is owned by the university, and its decisions are carried out with the dons' blessing. "I am ashamed of my university press," writes Jon Stalholtz, English tutor at Wolfson College, in the current *Oxford Magazine*, calling the cancellation of the list "an act of vandalism".

Christopher Tower's bequest, therefore, gives the university a chance to make amends for its apparently philis-



Christopher Tower, painted by James Gunn

published only by paying for it himself

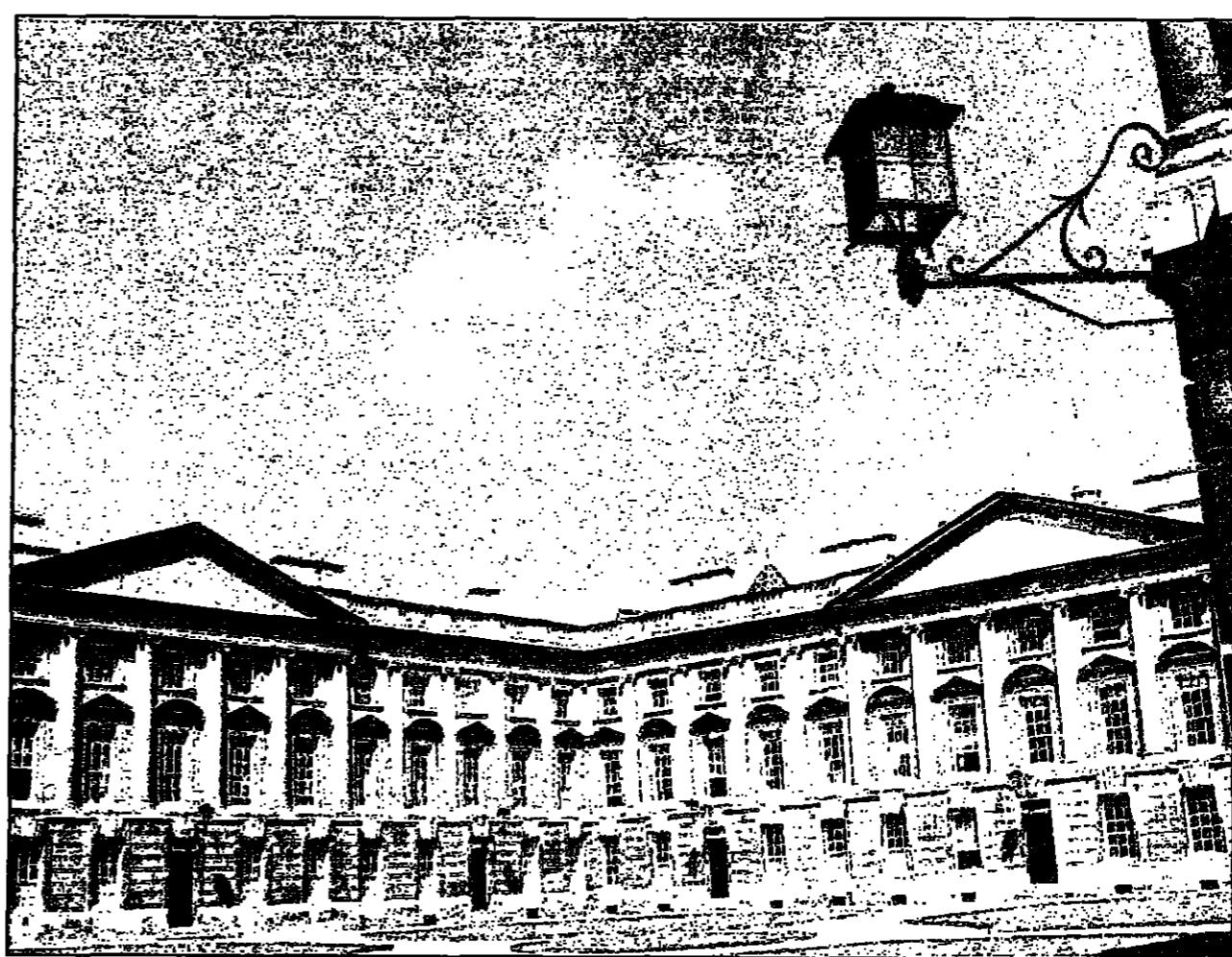
He was born in 1915 to a family of rich, property-owning diplomats. His father died in the First World War and, when his mother remarried, Christopher was packed off to a boarding school.

After graduating he went to Baghdad as private secretary to Sir Basil Newton, the British ambassador, learnt to speak Arabic, founded a camel corps and strode about in chieftain robes rather like Lawrence of Arabia. During the war he transferred to Libya, where, after hostilities ceased, he was empowered by the Foreign Office to set up a monarchy in Libya, under the Emir King Idris. For the next six years he acted as chief adviser to the king. His advice ranged from high policy to low fashion statements. When the king wanted to have a sign put up over his palace saying "Palace of King Idris" in neon lights, Tower gently informed him that there was no similar sign at the end of the Mall saying "Palace of King George VI".

Then, abruptly, he gave it all up. He went on epic treks with Wilfred Thesiger. He lived a solitary life. No one seems to have known him well, not even his elder sister, Pamela. He never discussed what happened to make him leave Libya. He developed odd, quasi-Arab habits. He was insouciant about the earth tremors that occasionally rocked his huge apartment in Athens, which he furnished as an English stately home complete with heavy chandeliers. When the next tremors came, he refused to be taken to safety, being too absorbed in one of the enormous jigsaws to which he was addicted.

He published several books of poems, most of them spectacularly unreadable retellings of ancient Persian legends. "I don't think he amounted to anything as a poet, I'm afraid," said his friend, Francis King, the novelist, yesterday. "But I loved his conversation."

He is buried in the village graveyard at Minstead in the New Forest, beside the grave of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. His friends are trying to persuade the vicar to let them put up a headstone based on a portrait showing Christopher Tower dressed in Arab finery, complete with imposing Tuareg dagger.



The bequests give Christchurch a Poetry Studentship and a research fellowship in Greek mythology David Hunter



FESTIVE?

Santas on transvestite charge

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

outrage", except at officially approved carnival times. The law is being applied rigorously this year at the demand of the big stores - the same premises that have refused to hire Santas and instead have put in their place magicians or toy demonstrators.

The stores - Printemps, Galeries Lafayette and Samaritaine - have stalls on the pavement selling seasonal gifts. They resent their customers

being harassed by street photographers, who work with accomplices dressed in fading red robes and ill-fitting beards.

A newer law forbids street photographers from patrolling outside the stores. Instead of relying on this law alone, the police have been throwing both the new and old ("no disguises") chapters of the book at the Santa-and-snapper teams.

Michel and his colleague Bruno, who charge 50 francs (£5.50) a picture have paid out several instant fines of £1.00 to £150 a time. Michel says he has

found himself on the unusual charge of "taking photographs without permission on a public road in the company of a transvestite" ("Transvestite" can also mean "a person in fancy-dress" but it usually means a cross-dresser).

The photographers protest that life is already hard enough. "Most people are only interested in the moving displays in the shop windows," said Michel. "All we get these days is a few people in from the provinces who've forgotten their cameras."

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Nasa
loses
control
of probe

THE 70-HOUR WAR

Now Saddam breathes easy again

"I BELIEVE he will die of natural causes" said an Iraqi in Baghdad. No need to ask the identity of the "he" to whom he referred.

Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, has survived the three-day air assault by the United States and Britain with little sign that his regime is politically weaker. In addition, one senior diplomat in Baghdad said yesterday, "Iraq is in a better position diplomatically than it was before."

It was a perfect military operation - missiles decapitated tall buildings in Baghdad with almost unerring accuracy. But the political plan behind the bombardment is more difficult to detect.

Ostensibly, it was to do with "degrading" Iraq's capacity to produce chemical and biological weapons and the means to deliver them. But Iraq had a large arsenal of such weapons in the 1991 Gulf War and did not use them because it was prevented from doing so by allied military superiority and the threat of retaliation. Iraq is unlikely to consider using them now.

Even if the worst-case suspicions of Unesco (the United Nations special committee in charge of eliminating such weapons) are correct, Iraq has only a limited quantity left. The real cutting edge of containment for Washington and London is sanctions and, with the Gulf War coalition more fractured than ever after the American and British action, these will be increasingly difficult to maintain.

It all started with an Iraqi diplomatic miscalculation. Baghdad had hoped to keep the political water hot - but not boiling. In February, the Iraqis achieved a psychological victory when Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, flew to Baghdad, met with Saddam Hussein and averted an allied air attack at the last minute.

Baghdad seems to have interpreted this as a sign of weakness. It thought that if it kept pushing it could marginalise Unesco and get a general review of sanctions and Unesco's activities. On 5 August, Iraq broke off negotiations with Richard Butler, the head of Unesco. On 31 October it ended all fresh inspections.

When Iraq suddenly found itself diplomatically isolated, it opened the way for military action. A foreign source in Baghdad said yesterday: "There is no doubt that the Iraqi leadership was shocked by what happened. They were practising brinkmanship and suddenly they found they had stepped over the brink."

But it turned out better than expected. The three days of strikes was nothing like the prolonged pounding of the six-week air war in 1991. Above all,

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Baghdad

the power stations and refineries, with the exception of one in Basra, were not hit. This was a strange conflict. The most significant technology involved was cruise missiles, Smart bombs - and the massed ranks of foreign television cameras on the roof of the Iraqi Ministry of Information. This gave the impression of a far more extensive war than was in fact being waged. It also limited the extent to which the allies could risk civilian casualties; one strike on a market place and the dead and wounded would be shown within seconds on television screens across the world.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, said yesterday that 62 soldiers were killed and 180 injured in the air strikes. This was the first official death toll from the punishing assault. Mr Aziz said civilian casualties were "much, much higher than military casualties", but refused to elaborate.

But, however accurate the missiles, accuracy counts for nothing without intelligence about what to hit. Most of the big buildings in Iraq were evacuated weeks ago. The same may be true of machine tools from plants. One resident of Baghdad who wanted to get a new number plate for a car stamped was told to come back after the bombing because the necessary piece of simple machinery had been "dispersed".

The same is true of the infrastructure which sustains the regime. It consists not of buildings but personnel, and these are mobile. At the lowest level this was evident on the streets of Baghdad over the last week. Standing on some street corners, armed militias of the ruling Baath party were clutching their guns. Others, more discreet, concealed their sub-machine guns from the former Yugoslavia under their coats.

In order to be able to react immediately to any sign of an uprising, President Saddam divided Iraq into military districts, each placed under a trusted lieutenant. Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of the Iraqi leader, was in charge of the south; he confirmed his reputation for ruthlessness by using chemical weapons against the Kurds in 1988. Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the Vice-President, was put in charge of the northern areas facing Kurdistan. Another leader known for his loyalty took charge of the mid-Euphrates region containing Karbala and Najaf and the holy cities of the Iraqi Shia Muslims, which are always the centre of dissent.

All the new appointments were of men who had played leading roles in crushing the great rebellions of the Shias and the Kurds in 1991. Most pieces on the Iraqi military chessboard are unchanged by the missile war. Television around the world was impressed by the ferocity of the assault. Many Iraqis and the governments of neighbouring countries, on the con-

trary, notice its limitations in time and target list.

The only part of Iraq outside the control of the Iraqi government is most of Kurdistan in the north. This was a safe haven for the Iraqi opposition before Saddam Hussein took its capital, Arbil, with his tanks in 1996. Seeing the Iraqi leader still firmly in power after the attack, the Kurds are unlikely to risk another incursion by allowing the opposition to return.

For seven years, containment of Iraq consisted of sanctions justified by Iraqi resistance to Unesco inspections. This containment required international consensus. Some diplomats in Baghdad believe that consensus is now broken.

The factories that Unesco was monitoring have been destroyed. Since it is claiming a victory, Baghdad is unlikely to allow the inspectors back in without getting sanctions lifted in return.

Yesterday, Mr Aziz declared that the UN weapons inspection program was over. "Iraq



An Iraqi looking for his belongings in rubble yesterday after his house in Baghdad was hit by a missile during the Anglo-American air attacks

Patrick Baz/AFP



Left to right: An Iraqi woman resuming daily life in Basra; the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, yesterday telling journalists in Baghdad that 62 military personnel were killed and 180 wounded in the air strikes, but civilian casualties were much higher. Baghdad's rush hour returning to normal yesterday

Reuters

Cook embarks on telephone diplomacy to seek support

BY RUPERT CORNWELL



REJECTING CRITICISM at home and abroad, Britain stuck to a hard line on Iraq yesterday, insisting that tough sanctions should stay and that despite everything that had happened, United Nations weapons inspectors could and should return to Baghdad.

Hours before a deeply divided UN Security Council met in New York to consider what to do next in the Gulf, the Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett made clear that Britain would not go along with "consensus at any price".

There could be "no easy rewards" for President Saddam Hussein after his defiance of UN resolutions and the refusal to co-operate with the Unesco in-

specators. It would now be "more difficult" to embark on a comprehensive review of sanctions desired by Baghdad than before, Mr Fatchett said.

As he spoke, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, embarked on a round of telephone diplomacy aimed at shoring up support among European and Arab countries - at best lukewarm and sometimes downright hostile to last week's bombardment - and at showing that Britain did have a longer-term policy towards Iraq.

That policy is based on three notions: "containment", or reducing the military threat posed by President Saddam; continuing progress on ridding Iraq of its biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, preferably through the Unesco mecha-

nism; and some action to ease the hardships of civilians.

On the last point of particular sensitivity given the charges that sanctions have caused hunger and disease among civilians - Mr Cook did receive some comfort yesterday at a meeting with his German opposite number, Joschka Fischer. The idea is for a European Union initiative to tackle humanitarian needs not being catered for by the UN oil-for-food programme.

But there Britain and the United States begin to part company with their allies. Mr Fischer underlined the need to create circumstances where a similar show-down need not occur. That would be a "difficult challenge for all parties", he said, implicitly

calling for compromise. This, too, is broadly the Paris line, but France's objections to last week's raids run deeper. The French feel sanctions are close to exhausting their usefulness: "We should go towards a lifting of the embargo," the Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, said on French radio yesterday.

Difficulties also loom for the UN's inspection mission. Tactfully, even Britain acknowledges that a return of the old-style Unesco is not on the cards. But any modified system seems bound to be even weaker. Nor is Britain prepared to sacrifice Richard Butler, the Unesco chief who is said to be a US stooge. "We have confidence in Mr Butler," Mr Fatchett said.

Bunker targeted to encourage coup

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

SADDAM HUSSEIN'S presidential bunker was targeted by US and RAF bombers as part of a plan to topple the Iraqi dictator, by encouraging a coup among his senior military officers, the Government said yesterday.

It released more details of the bombing of 100 targets in an attempt to convince people in Britain that it was effective, and it was following a long-term plan to bring down Saddam.

With Tony Blair facing anger criticism about the lack of a clear objective for the raids, the Prime Minister's official spokesman lashed out at

could not have the big picture". Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, spent the day holding discussions with European and Arab leaders to try to build support for new military action against Iraq.

One of the clear aims of the bombing was to encourage a renewed attempt at a coup by high-ranking officers surrounding Saddam by attacking his Republic Guard, destroying his command and control communications, and hitting his presidential bunker and residence in Baghdad.

"The specific thinking behind

these targets is to build on the fears that Saddam has of a coup by his own officers," said the spokesman.

There were reports of Iraqi troop movements "that are thought to deal with the possible uprising they fear", added the spokesman.

"Because of his fears about a coup against him and particularly because a series of attempts have been made, he takes most of the important decisions himself. His internal communications have been badly damaged. It will be difficult for him to get his messages

out to his military infrastructure. That will be causing him difficulties."

The latest assessments of sites hit were: 30 were involved with the production of "weapons of mass destruction", 20 were command facilities and communications networks, and nine were connected with the Republican Guard. Attacks on 35 targets "have left the Iraqi air defence system in ruins" and six successfully hit targets related to remotely piloted planes designed to deliver Iraq's chemical and biological weapons.

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Protocetus, an 'archaeocete' descendant of the newly found Himalayan whale

Natural History Museum

World's oldest whale is found in the Himalayas

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

the University of Roorkee, in northern India.

In a paper published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, the scientists say the fossil is a significant find because of both its extreme age and because it was found in a layer of sediments clearly associated with marine animals rather than freshwater species.

The finds shed new light on

the evolution of one of the most

successful groups of sea mammals

which became adapted to

a semi-aquatic life in river es-

tuaries and shallow seas before

becoming fully marine.

Scientists have dated the

fossil to about 53.5 million

years old, making it 3.5 million

years older than the previous

oldest known member of the

whale family.

The ancient whale, called

Himalayacetus subathuensis,

probably only spent some of its

time in water, returning to dry

land to rest and breed.

Its jawbone contains teeth

that are clearly adapted to

eating fish, according to Philip

Gingerich, of the University of

Michigan, and Sunil Bajpai, of

ern porpoise and lived more than 35 million years ago.

"When first described, *pa-*
cketus was interpreted as an
amphibious initial stage of
whale evolution that rested and
reproduced on land and entered
Tethys opportunistically to feed on fish," the scientists say.

The latest fossil jawbone was recovered from a sedimentary layer 100 metres deeper than previous *pa**cketus* finds.

Bajpal and Gingerich say, "This not only extends the fossil record of *Cetacea* (the whale family) back in time, but also reinforces the idea that whales originated on the margin of Tethys and corroborates interpretation of *pa**cketus* as an initial amphibious stage of cetacean evolution entering Tethys to feed on fish."

The chemical composition of other early whale fossils showed evidence of life in freshwater rather than sea environments. Analysis of phosphate in the newly discovered fossil teeth revealed values half way between those associated with freshwater and sea-living species, the scientists report.

"*Himalayacetus* came from a shallow, oyster-bearing marine deposit, whereas *pa**cketus* and the other oldest *pa**cketids* known previously came from continental red beds and were found in association with land mammals," they say.

Although modern whales have lost their hind legs, their earlier ancestors evidently had functional limbs that allowed them to roam around on land.

Archaeocetus had two vestigial

hind legs that protruded from its body but which seemed to serve little or no function.

Further adaptations allowed modern whales to exploit the rich

ocean environment to become, in the case of the blue whale, the largest animal on Earth.

Mother's murder: man is charged

A MAN WAS charged yesterday with the murder of Sharon Lester, whose two-year-old daughter was found dead on Sunday night, left in a rubbish bag on wasteland.

Ms Lester, 22, was found at her home in Kensington, Liverpool, on Saturday. She had been beaten and repeatedly stabbed. Her daughter, Jade, was discovered close to a reservoir.

John Park, 24, spoke yesterday only to confirm his name during a four-minute hearing before magistrates in Liverpool. An unemployed joiner of Kensington, Liverpool, he is charged with murdering Ms Lester between 12 and 19 December.

He is also accused of burgling her home in Ling Street, Liverpool, on 19 December and stealing property.

Mr Park, wearing a grey sweatshirt and tracksuit bottoms, was remanded into police custody. He will reappear in court later this week. There was no application for bail by the defence solicitor, Gerry Bowen, and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

A nationwide hunt was



Sharon Lester had been beaten and stabbed

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

launched for Jade after her mother's body was found in a recess under stairs in the back dining room of her terraced house on Saturday.

Detective Superintendent Russ Walsh told a press conference yesterday that Ms Lester was a devoted mother.

"She was extremely devoted and Jade was a well-cared-for child and well-loved. The family themselves are absolutely devastated."

He said they had still been unable to trace Jade's father. "Unfortunately, Sharon did not divulge the name of the father to her family. We are having great difficulty in tracking the father down."

"If the father is aware of what's happened then we would like him to contact us. It's quite important to the investigation that we trace him."

Mr Walsh said Jade was found by a team of officers including two women constables on waste ground near a reservoir. Her fully clothed body was found in a bin bag, which had been tied with string and left in an overgrown grassy area, where it was hidden from view.

Police heading the investigation said that they had traced two men seen in a white van close to the house in Ling Road and had ruled them out of the inquiry. "They both came forward and have been eliminated in terms of involvement in the offence."

A second man, seen in a yellow van, still has not been traced, he added.

Police are still awaiting the results of a post-mortem examination to discover exactly how Jade died. So far no one has been questioned about her death.

New test detects cancer earlier

A TEST for cervical cancer that can detect changes in the cells at an earlier stage than existing methods and could reduce misdiagnoses has been developed by scientists.

The system, which uses infra-red light to analyse the chemical composition of cells, can spot those in the earliest stage of becoming cancerous before the changes are visible under the microscope.

The discovery, by US researchers from Rockefeller University in New York, and the biotech company Digilab, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, is the third advance reported in the past 10 days which it is claimed, could improve the accuracy of screening.

Sainsbury's. Eat, drink and save money this Christmas.



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OFFERS END 24 DECEMBER 1998. THE LAW DOES NOT PERMIT THE SALE OF ALCOHOL TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18. ALCOHOL CAN NOT BE SOLD BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 11PM AND 8AM. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAVACENTRES. PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. SOME LINES AVAILABLE IN LARGER STORES ONLY. OFFERS EXCLUDE SAINSBURY'S LOCAL STORES. WE'D BE INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS: www.sainsburys.co.uk

Why I'm battling against the euro, by Lord Owen

THE MAN dubbed "Dr Death" will spring back into political life early in the new year. Lord Owen will launch a group that will be pro-European but opposed to early British entry into the single currency.

The former Labour foreign secretary and leader of the now defunct Social Democratic Party (SDP), who today speaks rarely about domestic politics, told *The Independent* he felt it "sympathy" with Tony Blair's Government.

"I see New Labour as a vindication of most of what the SDP did," he said. "I am very pleased with what has happened."

Lord Owen was loathed by Labour critics who believed he should fight his corner rather than found the SDP – and renamed him Dr Death for the damage they claimed he was doing to the party – and he remains a hate figure to them.

But he insists that the breakaway party had "a very important influence" in forcing Labour to modernise. "Labour had the shock of its life in 1983, when it saw those SDP posters on its council estates," he said.

He revealed that he now met Mr Blair "from time to time", but would not elaborate. "I think Blair is doing very well, though it's early days. In personal terms, he has done well on Northern Ireland. He is right to make education a priority."

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

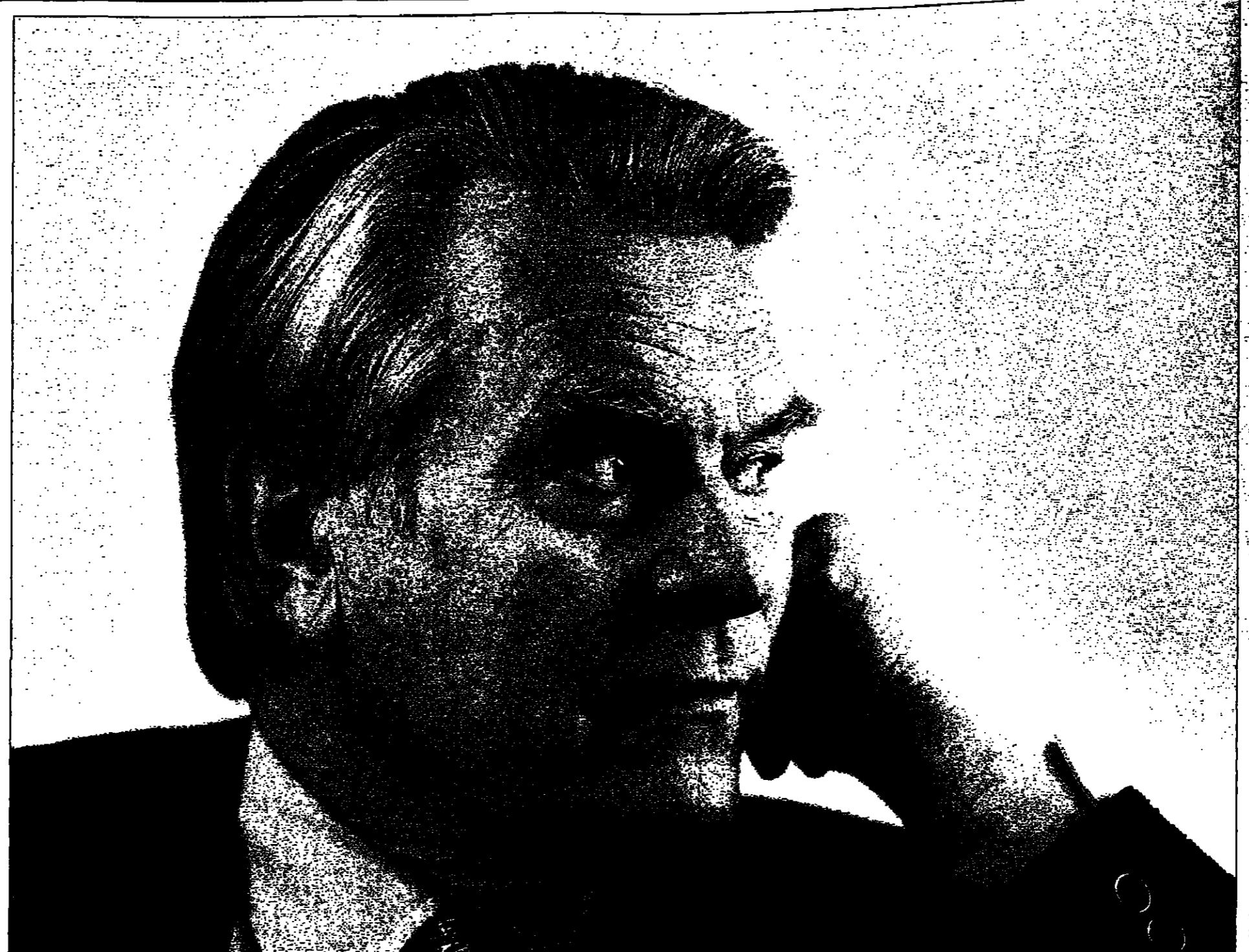
While welcoming Labour's constitutional reforms, he warned: "We are in slight danger of constitutional indigestion. You can go too fast; you need to pace yourself. Improving education and Britain's competitiveness and modernising the country are the important issues."

Despite his admiration for Mr Blair, the 60-year-old life peer, who sits defiantly as an independent Social Democrat in the Lords, will be on the opposite side of the fence to the Prime Minister when he launches his new think-tank.

"I am not going back into party politics," he emphasised repeatedly. "My political life died with the SDP; I am out of it. I want to stay out of it."

Lord Owen said the group, which he will chair, would provide "education and information" about the "historic decision facing Britain".

Although it will campaign alongside the diffuse 30-plus groups hostile to the euro if Mr Blair calls a referendum, Lord Owen has rebuffed requests to head an umbrella "No" group. At this stage, his think-tank "does not want to be associated with people who have a long track record of scepticism and lack of enthusiasm for Europe".



Lord Owen, renamed 'Dr Death' by his Labour critics, sees New Labour as a vindication of the breakaway SDP, which he led from 1983 to 1987

John Voos

Other members of his group include Lord Prior, the former Tory cabinet minister, now chairman of GEC, and Martin Taylor, who has just stood down as chief executive of Barclays Bank.

Lord Owen promised that there would be people "from all walks of life, whose hallmark is a lifetime of commitment to the European Union. We are serious Europeans who are worried about any rapid movement to a single currency." He insisted: "It will not be a group of old staggers and old farts. We will involve the younger generation."

Lord Owen is convinced that the other groups opposing the euro are wrong to start the "No" campaign now, since that might help to make a referendum inevitable.

Despite growing speculation that Mr Blair will arrange a poll shortly after the next general election, Lord Owen said: "It is perfectly possible we will never have a referendum. I don't deny that maybe his [Mr Blair's] inclination would be to go in if he saw a window of opportunity in the opinion polls. But I think we could mount a very effective referendum

campaign, even if we started behind in the polls."

"What is at issue is the self-confidence of Britain as a self-governing nation. The disadvantages are clear. You are in a straitjacket. You cannot change your exchange rate or interest rates."

Lord Owen insisted that Britain could still play an important role in the EU while remaining outside the euro. "We might have to be taken more seriously than if we just become absorbed by the 12 [joining members]."

Now would membership

boost Mr Blair's hopes of joining the Franco-German alliance. "They are the dynamic, the reason the EU exists today. It would be very foolish to believe that could be changed. I don't think it will ever become a trilateral relationship."

He will not say that Britain should never join the euro. "There may be circumstances where you might see substantial economic advantages, but you would have to be sure that the EU would not become a United States of Europe. That battle has to be fought for the next five to ten years. If

people think EMU [economic and monetary union] is part of a downward escalator to a United States of Europe, they will be very against it."

"But I don't think we should be hostile to EMU. I have no time for those who will rejoice every time it runs into trouble."

However, he did rejoice a little at two recent events: the Franco-German demands for the single currency to be accompanied by a common EU tax policy, and the lack of EU support for the British and United States bombing of Iraq. For Lord Owen, the latter was

a "classic example" of how majority voting in EU foreign policy would never work, since Britain under such a system could not have acted alone. "Tony Blair tried to persuade the other EU countries to support him, but they failed him," he said.

Lord Owen believes that his latest – and possibly last – crusade will triumph, but conceded: "At the end of the day, if the younger generation decide they want the single currency, we will have to go for it the whole hog. But I will regret it to my dying day."

Ministers 'putting arms before human rights'

BY FRAN ARRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

MINISTERS HAVE soft-pedalled on human rights abuses abroad to avoid losing lucrative trade deals including arms sales, a House of Commons committee suggested yesterday.

Members of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee were critical of Britain's attitude to Indonesia, where the UK has struck important arms deals, and China, to which Tony Blair led a trade mission this year. They said that while some departments, such as the Foreign Office, were clearly worried about human rights, those responsible for trade seemed less concerned. Launching their report on foreign policy and human rights, MPs from all parties said Britain's attitude towards the former Suharto regime in Indonesia had been softened by its desire to sell arms.

The committee's chairman, Donald Anderson, criticised a



The criticised picture of Cook and Suharto Popperfoto

picture in the Government's annual human rights report of Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, shaking hands with President Suharto, who resigned amid mounting unrest in May. "The temptation is to be strong on weak countries and weak on strong countries. Indonesia was clearly a country where there were substantial projects including arms purchases in prospect," he said.

Diane Abbott, the Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, described the photograph as "a standing indictment of the Foreign Secretary". She added: "Some of us do discern a difference between what we see as the genuine interest of the Foreign Secretary in human rights and the long-standing interest in arms sales of the Ministry of Defence, the Department of

Trade and Industry and even possibly 10 Downing Street. Britain's 'constructive engagement' in Indonesia contrasted with its tough stance against the Abacha regime in Nigeria, also now defunct, the committee said.

The report said some progress had been made and committee members added that their conclusions, made 18 months into the new administration, must be tentative. However, there was certainly inconsistency in the way the "ethical" dimension to foreign policy operated. The report criticised the Government for not taking a stronger line against China, saying the Chinese government had claimed a "propaganda victory" after the EU failed to censure it.

A Foreign Office spokesman welcomed the positive aspects of the report: "It does praise his [Robin Cook's] work on the EU arms code, the International Criminal Court and the human rights annual report."

Mandelson jobs promise 'false'

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

THE UNEMPLOYED are being misled by Peter Mandelson with the promise of thousands of jobs that do not exist, the Opposition said yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry had "fiddled" the figures because only 108 out of 2,040 "new" jobs quoted by him were actual vacancies.

The Government denied the allegations and in turn accused the shadow Trade and Industry spokesman, John Redwood, of indulging in "silly scare stories".

The controversy centred on Mr Mandelson's recent claim that the North-east could weather large-scale redundancies caused by the closure of Siemens and Fujitsu plants because more jobs were being created by other firms. He said

the region had generated more vacancies than redundancies and added: "I want people to go out and talk up the region. I don't want people talking us down."

The Department of Trade and Industry said 2,000 posts had been created by a Barclays call centre in Sunderland, and Alloy Processing in Newton Aycliffe was offering 40 jobs.

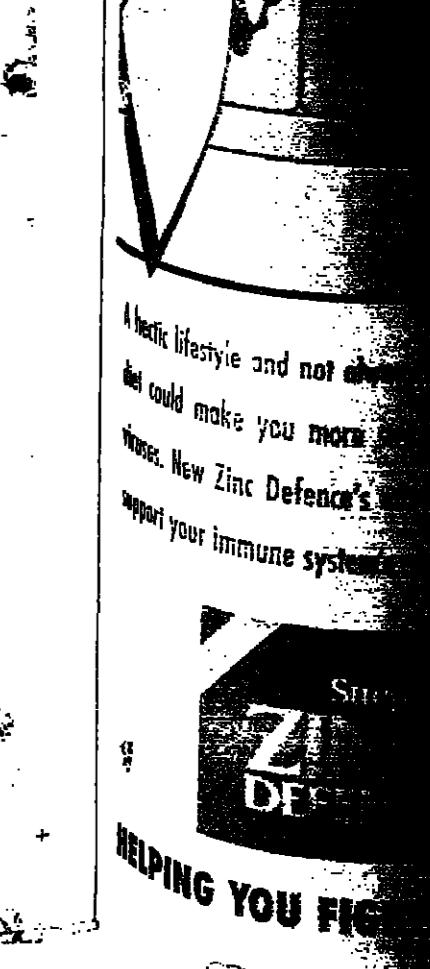
But Barclays will have 100 jobs by the end of this month, while the steel company will have eight. Mr Redwood said Mr Mandelson had been "fiddling the figures to give the impression that more jobs were being created than lost."

Battle hots up on Welsh Assembly

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

seats that each has a candidate but he did not want to be seen pushing aside local party members. "Because assembly members elected through the list will carry out duties in each of the eight constituencies in the area, I will, as an additional member, be able to focus on its strategic needs."

The result of the leadership ballot is due in February. Mr Morgan, the Cardiff West MP, has been selected to fight the Cardiff West seat for the assembly. His supporters said Mr Michael's decision proved his unpopularity with local Labour members. "He's running scared from the voters."





Lucille McLauchlan, tight-lipped, leaving Dundee Sheriff Court yesterday

Fotopress Dundee

Seasonal ways to steal cars

MOTORING ORGANISATIONS have identified three new types of car thief who have sprung up in response to the latest attempts by manufacturers and police forces to improve vehicle security.

These new techniques - known as "frosting", "hooking" and "gifting" - take advantage of drivers' complacency that their cars are theft-proof. Thieves are selecting high-value luxury saloon cars such as Jaguars and Mercedes.

■ Frosting, which originated in the West Midlands, preys on motorists who leave their engines running while the car defrosts and nip into the house for a cup of tea. The thief sneaks into the car and drives off with an early Christmas present.

■ Hooking is when car thieves push long metal hooks through letterboxes to prise away keys left hanging near the front door.

■ Gifting is a seasonal crime.

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

Many Christmas shoppers return to their cars halfway through the trip and leave parcels visible on the back-seat or on the hatchback shelf. The RAC said these crimes had emerged since local councils and business started making greater use of close circuit television (CCTV) in high crime areas. Last year thieves pried on garage forecourts as many drivers left their keys in the car while paying for petrol, but this had been made more difficult by CCTV.

Edmund King, RAC director of campaigns, said: "Security improvements, alarms and improved immobilisers have made it much harder for the car thief to break into and steal luxury cars."

He said simple measures, such as concealing car keys and not leaving car doors open or their contents visible, would prevent the problem.

ANWAR IBRAHIM

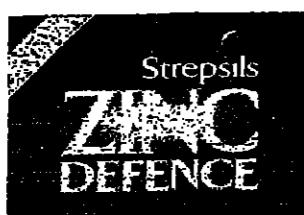


In solitary confinement,
the sound of silence
is quite deafening

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4



A hectic lifestyle and not always sticking to a sensible diet could make you more susceptible to nasty cold viruses. New Zinc Defence's advanced formula helps support your immune system's resistance to infection.



HELPING YOU FIGHT OFF COLDS.

Saudi nurse stole cash from patient

BY ANDY DENHOLM

A NURSE jailed in Saudi Arabia over the murder of a colleague was found guilty yesterday of stealing from a patient in Britain.

Lucille McLauchlan, 33, took money from an elderly patient while at King's Cross Hospital, Dundee, in 1996, and then forged references to get work. She was also convicted of reset - handling a stolen bank card.

The court appearance followed the nurse's release from Saudi Arabia earlier this year. She spent 17 months in jail after being convicted of being an accessory to murder.

Sheriff Alastair Stewart, at Dundee Sheriff Court, deferred sentence until 18 January for reports.

Although she was found guilty of using the bank card, McLauchlan was acquitted of stealing it while working at

something else such as making a balance inquiry but I suggest that is the sort of fanciful speculation that juries are directed to avoid."

The sheriff described McLauchlan's use of forged references, which she gave to the Speedwell Nurses Recruitment Agency, Dundee, as "a clearly thought out and planned pattern of deceit with a view to obtaining employment abroad". He said they contained "untrue statements" and "complete lies".

McLauchlan - who appeared under her married name of Ferrie - sat impassively in the dock as the verdicts were read out and refused to speak to reporters as she left the court.

One of the references purporting to come from Loraine Deuchars of King's Cross Hospital spoke of McLauchlan's "good working relationship

with staff" and described her as "very popular" with patients and relatives. But Miss Deuchars told the court she had not seen the letter.

McLauchlan was suspended by King's Cross Hospital in April 1996 after a police investigation into the missing bank card and she was sacked after a hearing on 14 May.

By that time she had approached the agency, asking about work abroad. Soon after she got a job at the King Fahd military hospital in Saudi Arabia. While there, McLauchlan was jailed with Deborah Parry, another nurse, after the death of Yvonne Gilford, an Australian, in 1996.

A Saudi court convicted her of being an accessory to murder and sentenced her to eight years in prison and 500 lashes. She flew home after her sentence was commuted in May.

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some
Christmas wishes
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Due to the incredible popularity of Pay as you Talk, our Helpline service has been very busy and there may be a delay in answering your call. Our busiest days will probably be Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and if you can't get through we would like to apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause. Don't forget our Helpline is open 24hrs a day.

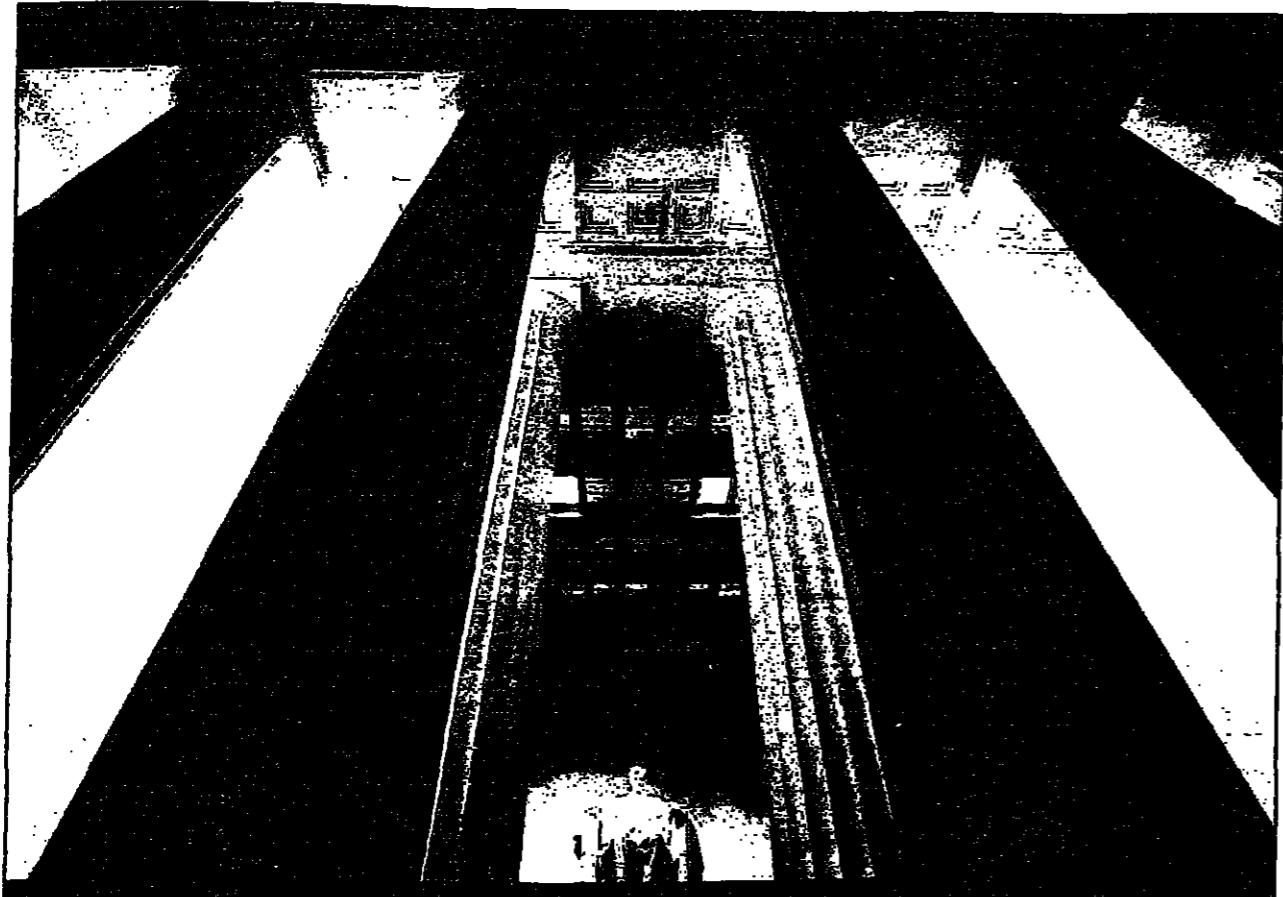
To help us help you further, if you have bought a digital handset, you no longer need to phone the Creditline to check your Calling or Service Credit. Simply dial *#1345# followed by the SEND key or press the Haskey. After a few moments your balance will be displayed on the screen of your phone. This service is free, of course.

We would also like to encourage you to register your details by post by filling in the card in the box. To give you more time, we have extended the return date for registrations for our Pay as you Talk Christmas promotion. So if you have used your phone by December 31st 1998 and we receive your card by January 14th 1999, you will still qualify for the normal £2.50 worth of Calling Credit and the £10 special Christmas offer! Our final wish is that you enjoy Christmas and using your phone.



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*Offer ends by 14/1/99. You can also register by phone by 14/1/99. Offer subject to terms and conditions of ongoing Pay as you Talk monthly contract. Full rate is payable from the provider, Vodafone UK, The Quadrant, 20 London Road, Newbury, Berks RG14 1XK. Credit under the above offer will be doctored to your account as at before 14/1/99. To use your phone, you must apply and to benefit from this offer you have to keep your Service Credit topped up. All offers on offer are inclusive of VAT. Daily contract of £10 of calling is offered.



The Lincoln Memorial waits in the wings as Washington waits for the Senate to fulfil its duty Brian Harris

DC reverses decline to win back home rule

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

There was much seasonal rejoicing in Washington yesterday at the announcement that after three years of outside management, the capital of the United States, otherwise known as the District of Columbia, would be permitted to govern itself again. From 2 January, when the new mayor, Anthony Williams, takes office, the elected council will take back responsibility for running the city.

In a symbolic gesture, the announcement of a return to what is known locally as "home rule" came not from the federally appointed Control Board, which is currently responsible for running the city, but from the office of the mayor.

Mr Williams, took over as city manager last year, but answered to the Control Board. She will now answer to the mayor. The DC police, which has one of the lowest clear-up rates for murders in the whole of the United States, will be under the direct authority of the mayor.

The Control Board will remain in place for the time being, but will shift its attention from actual management of services to overseeing the city's finances. According to Alice Rivlin, its chairman, the board's new role will be to "oversee Williams and try to keep him on track".

Mr Williams said that he believed the changes would result in a cleaner, safer city within six months.

The decision to return the bulk of power to the mayor is a direct response to two developments: the reluctant acceptance of the present mayor, the controversial Marion Barry, that he should heed "friendly" advice not to seek re-election, and the voters' choice of Anthony Williams to succeed him. Mr Williams, an adopted child who was brought up in Los Angeles, has been Washington's chief accountant for the past two years and is credited with turning around the city's finances to the point where it will be in the black this year.

The fact that Mr Williams received well over 50 per cent of the vote made him the first mayor of this racially divided city to have a mandate from black and white voters alike. Mr Barry, who was re-elected in 1994 after resigning because of a drugs conviction two years before, had exacerbated the city's division, attracting – until they started to find the mismanagement intolerable – the devoted support of the District's black majority and the fierce resentment of whites.

To the general amazement of residents, the improvement in the city's finances has been accompanied by belated manifestations of the economic boom that has benefited many other parts of the United States. The city centre is currently the scene of frenetic building and refurbishment, some, but by no means all, spawned by the MCI sports stadium, which opened a year ago.

From next month, most city agencies, including those responsible for public works, social services, rubbish collection and health clinics for the poor, will report to the mayor, via the city manager, Camille Barnett.

Ms Barnett, a formidably



Anthony Williams: Has put city back in the black



Marion Barry: Advised not to seek re-election

elect, which is preparing the transition.

The city council was stripped of most of its financial authority in 1995 when it was on the verge of bankruptcy. In August 1997 it lost most of its administrative authority as well, after management and city services had continued to decline.

From next month, most city agencies, including those responsible for public works, social services, rubbish collection and health clinics for the poor, will report to the mayor, via the city manager, Camille Barnett.

Ms Barnett, a formidably

GIFTNET.COM
It's not too late to send presents around the world. Let the Internet work for you. For free!

Last Christmas thousands of people wished they were dead.

"So here it is merry Christmas everybody's having fun, look to the future now, it's only just begun..."

Everytime you hear the immortal words of Slade's Noddy Holder, you know Christmas has officially started. Trouble is, now it seems to start in about June.

Not everybody will have a merry Christmas, not everybody's having fun, and not everybody's looking to the future.

Let's face it, even the first Christmas had its ups and downs. A family with no home, a new baby, and then a bunch of strangers turning up in the middle of the night.

We have so many expectations of what Christmas should be like, that feelings of grief, unhappiness or loneliness are much more acute and real.

Christmas is fundamentally about family – but what if you don't have one, or this year someone in your family died. Only those who have experienced this know the pain of pretending your way through the festive season, the agony of not having to buy a present, not send a card, or not set a dinner place.

For parents who have lost young children the void can be unbearable. Queueing for hours and hours amongst many mothers to get your hands on this year's must-have toy is some people's sweetest dream.

Christmas is also the time to be with loved ones. Anyone who has been through a divorce knows the wrench

Uncharted waters ahead for Clinton

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

THE DISPUTATIOUS and bitterly partisan House of Representatives having fulfilled its constitutional duty, America's other and very different legislative chamber began to prepare the ground yesterday for its own decisive role in the impeachment of Bill Clinton.

If the House at great moments of crisis tends to resemble a student debating hall, the Senate is very much the upper common room: clubby, cloaked in traditions and above all imbued with a sense of its own self-importance.

"The greatest deliberative body on earth," it was once fond of calling itself, until an all-too-visible lack of deliberative skills turned the phrase into a parody. But the illusion persists. All 100 senators look into the mirror each morning and see a future president, it is said. Although nobody from its ranks has been elected to

Fireworks, not surprisingly, are rare. To be sure, great occasions always possess their drama, and so it will be in the impeachment trial. But the very arrangement of the furniture seems designed to extract the passion from of the place. The senator has no bench but a desk-cum-lectern.

C-SPAN, the television channel that carries Senate proceedings in their entirety, must also keep its camera fixed on the speaker. Panning shots are barred – for the simple reason viewers would otherwise see that this temple of democracy is usually empty.

But if America's political temperature needs lowering, the Senate is the perfect forum. Its members face election only every six years, compared with every other year for Representatives. Even the fieriest recruit from the House, after a few attempts to liven things up,

soon hears the tut-tutting of his peers and acquires the proper decorum.

The Senate, moreover, could never pass anything as contentious as an article of impeachment as narrowly as the 221 to 212 vote that "indicted" Mr Clinton for obstruction of justice. It needs a 60 per cent majority, or 60 votes, even to end a filibuster. And no less than two-thirds, or 67 votes, are needed for an impeachment conviction, or to overturn a presidential veto.

On the face of things, therefore, Mr Clinton looks safe; even if all 55 Republicans voted unanimously, 12 Democrats would have to defect if he is to be driven from office. At any point they could stop the trial.

Senators, however, are less inclined to follow the party whip, and this is a process through uncharted waters.



of having to share not just presents, but their kids at Christmas, and the nauseating pain of seeing them enjoying it with a new stepmother or father.

Children with parents who have split up know the emotional tightrope to be walked so as not to favour either parent, and the gut wrenching feeling in your stomach of eating two Christmas dinners.

For some, going home is a nightmare any time of the year. "Going home for Christmas" can be devastating – returning to a former life you thought you'd escaped.

Now all your failings are laid open for inspection by people who still want to control your lives through a cocoon of mince pies and marzipan.

Others would love to go home to a family, but there's no one to go home to, and no one to buy presents for.

But at least Christmas won't bankrupt them you might say. The pressure on parents to satisfy the desires of their wide eyed munchkins, or not to disappoint their designer savvy teenagers is enormous.

How do you tell children Santa can't get them an interactive dinosaur because Daddy's firm is downsizing for the recession?

Christmas is also the time to be with loved ones.

Anyone who has been through a divorce knows the wrench

you'd be spoiling their Christmas, wouldn't you? So, you put on the silly hat, stretch your face into a smile, and if anyone does ask, you say you're "fine" – but they won't

ask, because it's "Christmas" time! Anyway look around you, they'd say, "lovely family, lovely friends, new carpets, new hi-fi" with Noddy Holder still growling out the cheer.

"...everybody's having fun..."

The Samaritans know from experience "the season to be jolly" can be the most miserable time of year for some, yet you are surrounded by people you least want to let down. Those you can confide in may be away or unavailable, so it becomes impossible to express your emotions.

They also know that just talking to someone who will really listen, can actually mean the difference between someone choosing life instead of suicide.

The Samaritans will not judge or preach, or tell you what to do, but neither will they play down the seriousness of your situation, and it almost goes without saying that anything you say is in absolute confidence.

Everyone knows that the pressure at Christmas to have a good time is relentless, but throughout Christmas at any time, day or night, there are people there.

So whatever you're going through this Christmas, even if you're only ruining the turkey, we'll go through it with you.

Whatever you're going through this Christmas we'll go through it with you. The Samaritans. 0345 90 90 90.

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BUSINESS

UK needs to make further rate cuts, says gloomy IMF

BRIEFING

Oil price hits a 12-year low

THE PRICE of oil hit a 12-year low yesterday after the four days of Anglo-US air attacks in Iraq ended without interruption to oil supplies. In London, benchmark February Brent fell 40 cents to \$35.58 a barrel, after Western industry officials said initial assessments indicated the air strikes had not damaged Iraq's oil export facilities. Meanwhile, in its latest World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund predicted oil prices would stage a partial recovery next year. The IMF has estimated an average oil price in 1999 of \$14.51, compared to \$13.29 in 1998.

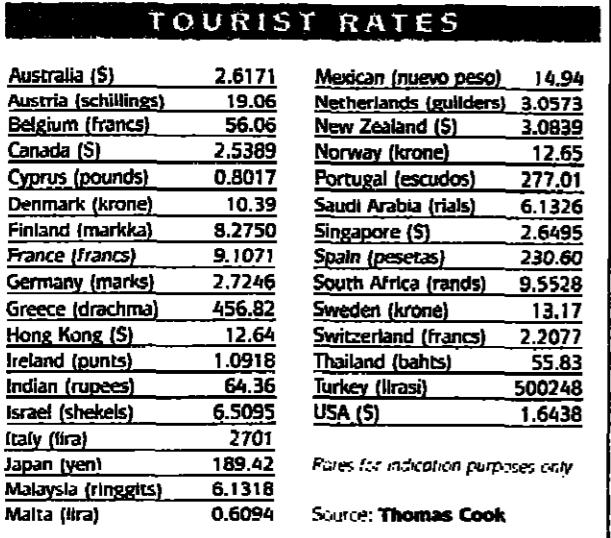
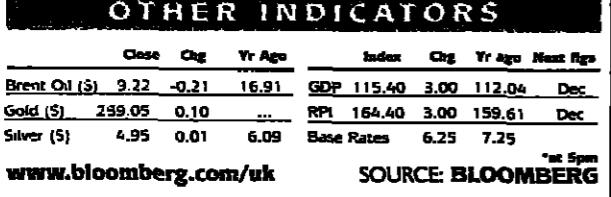
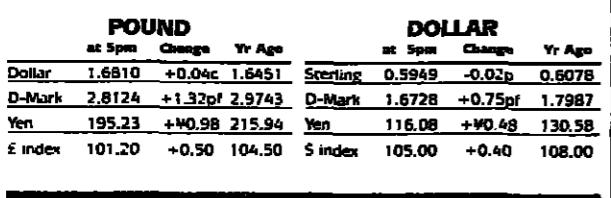
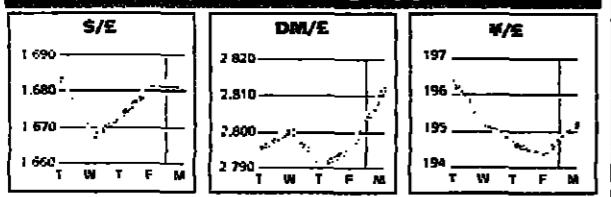
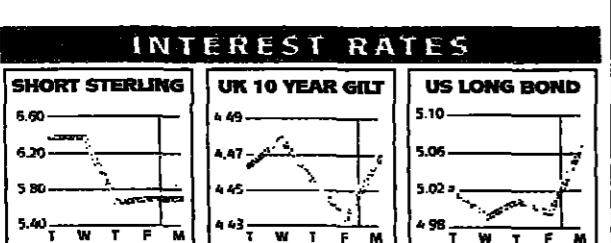
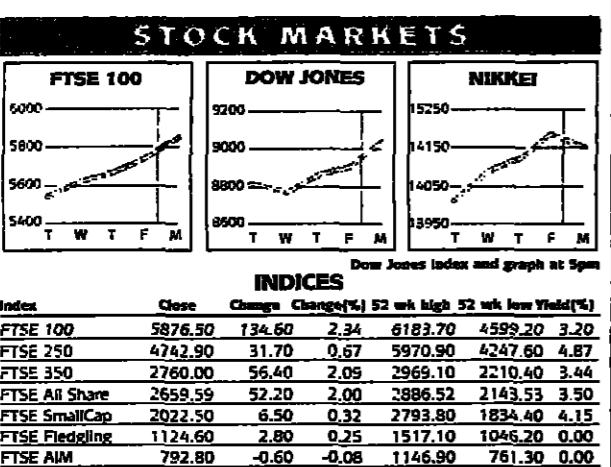
SFA clears Thomson Travel

THE Securities and Futures Authority yesterday said it would not take disciplinary action against any party involved in the £1.7bn flotation of Thomson Travel. The City watchdog launched an inquiry following the May listing of the tour operator led by the chief executive Paul Brett (pictured). Hundreds of small investors had complained that they could not buy shares because their application form was late. The SFA, which received almost 1,000 complaints from disgruntled shareholders, said that there were no grounds for disciplinary action. However, it added that it would examine whether the guidance to firms on certain aspects of the flotation was appropriate.

Dagenham agrees £28.3m bid

FORD motor dealership Dagenham Motors yesterday agreed the proposed £28.3 million, 160p per share takeover offer from a joint venture formed by the Ford Motor company and Jardine International Motor Holdings. Dagenham, which saw its shares fall 16p to 151.5p on the day, also warned that because of "difficult" trading conditions in the fourth quarter of 1998 it now expects profits for the year to be below those of 1997.

Discussions between Ford and Jardine about a joint offer for Dagenham were announced in September and the joint venture was established in November for the purpose of making a bid. Dagenham said that no further announcement will be made about the offer until early in the New Year.



BY LEA PATERSON
AND CLIFFORD GERMAN

| Area/Country | New Forecast | Previous Forecast |
|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| World | 2.2 | 2.5 |
| G7 | 1.5 | 1.9 |
| United States | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| Japan | -0.5 | 0.5 |
| Germany | 2.0 | 2.5 |
| France | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| Britain | 0.9 | 1.2 |
| Italy | 1.9 | 2.5 |
| Canada | 2.2 | 2.5 |
| Asia | 4.3 | 3.9 |

Source: IMF

the US economy, which will still leave the US operating at very high levels of capacity utilisation, would warrant any significant further easing of monetary policy."

World stock markets shrugged off both the IMF's gloomy forecasts and the impeachment of President Bill Clinton at the weekend.

At lunchtime in New York, the Dow Jones index was heading back above the psychologically-important 9,000 barrier, with technological stocks leading the way.

In London, merger activity and the strong Wall Street opening contributed to a buoyant day for the FTSE 100, which closed up 134.6 points to 1,514.6 despite exceeding thin market trade.

Despite the sharp slowdown predicted for the US economy, the IMF argued that the Federal Reserve should hold fire on US interest rates at its meeting today.

Speaking at a press conference in Washington, Flemming Larsen, deputy director of the IMF's research department, said: "We do not think that the kind of slowdown in growth we are projecting for

tals remained strong and that the newly independent Bank of England was well placed to react to weakening demand.

Although the series of recent cuts in interest rates in the US, Europe and Asia have lessened the risks for the world economy, the recent market turmoil would hurt growth almost everywhere, according to the IMF.

The global economy will grow by just 2.2 per cent in 1999, down from 2.5 per cent forecast in early October. Japan will experience another year of contraction in 1999, while growth in the US - currently enjoying the longest period of peace-time expansion

on record - will be just 1.8 per cent.

The Japanese economy, trade protectionism in the developing world, exchange rate volatility and a surge in the US stock market are among the key risks to world growth, the IMF said.

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GEC prepares to end the suspense

THE SUSPENSE is killing me ... I hope it lasts," says Gene Wilder in that hardy Christmas perennial, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Now we have another Yuletide nailbiter on our hands - George and the Giant Defence Merger (subtitle: Which Way Will GEC Jump?).

Ever since Lord Simpson promised three weeks ago that he would reach a decision "soon" on who he was going to pair up with in the great defence consolidation game, the expectation has been mounting. Now that GEC has let it be known that it hopes to make an announcement this side of Christmas, the agony of anticipation has become quite exquisite.

Will it be the French, those mighty lovers who want to dominate every match? Will the bride be American - after all, transatlantic marriages are all the rage these days? Or will George finally do the decent thing and name the date with his old flame at British Aerospace, Sir Dick Evans?

The speculation has not hurt the share price - GEC stock was up another 5 per cent yesterday to 556, a shade beneath its high for the year. BAe was dragged along



OUTLOOK

in the slipstream, climbing by a similar amount.

Alas, none of the speculation gets us any nearer an answer. GEC may have tantalised us with the promise of an early denouement which accompanied its interim results. But it also sent up enough chaff to confuse the stealthiest truth-seeking missile.

An American merger would make sense because GEC knows the terrain, having already snapped up Tracor for £300m, and - more importantly - because it is trusted by the Pentagon.

But a French deal also has its merits as it would give GEC a voice at the top table in the construction

of the long-awaited European Aerospace and Defence Company. GEC has tried and failed before to hold hands with its opposite number in France, Thomson CSF, only to fall foul of Gallic chauvinism. But time and politics have moved on. One method of joining forces could be through its French partner Alcatel, which has a 16 per cent holding in Thomson.

But the "dream merger" of GEC and BAe is the one that whets the appetite. There are formidable hurdles to jump - the vexed question of valuation for one, and what to do with the bit of GEC that makes Hotpoint fridges for another. There is another snag, which is that Sir Dick is betrothed to Manfred at Daimler Chrysler Aerospace.

The British government would rather like to engineer a ménage à trois between all three companies. Perhaps we shall not have to wait long to see.

AMP-NPI

THE HEADLINE number looks big, but as NPI policyholders have discovered to their cost over the

years, it is the bits that have been squirrelled away from view that give a truer picture of the state of affairs. AMP of Australia says that NPI's half a million members will benefit to the tune of £2.7bn from the takeover announced yesterday. It may also snow in Sydney this Christmas.

The figures do indeed accumulate to £2.7bn, but it is hard to see how this deal from down under values NPI at anything like that. The only new money on offer is the £510m AMP is paying for goodwill. The balance is made up of £1.4bn of policyholders' own money and an £800m financing facility that AMP will generously make available to policyholders on commercial terms.

That makes it rather a good deal for AMP. Without overpaying, the Aussies have picked up a life business with a strong brand name and excellent distribution capabilities that can be integrated with their existing Pearl Assurance arm in the UK.

But it is an indifferent deal for NPI policyholders. The £800 cash payout dangled before with-profits policyholders may be enough to book next summer's holiday now.

But it is peanuts compared to the sums they could have made had they lodged their money with a life fund other than NPI. A policyholder who has been putting, say, £50 a month into an NPI endowment for the last 25 years can expect to see the fund mature with a value of £64,000 against the £120,000 that could have been earned with another life company.

AMP intends to distribute the £1.4bn built up in NPI's life fund. But this is hardly largess on the part of the Australians. This sum represents the assets backing their policies, a large chunk of which would have been distributed eventually to policyholders anyway in the form of terminal bonuses.

Even that £1.4bn is a movable feast as the figure was struck at the end of last year. Since then NPI has mortgaged £260m of its future earnings through a securitisation deal and may have to fork out £350m to cover its exposure to guaranteed annuity payments.

Policyholders could, of course, vote down the deal in the spring, but in reality their choice is to like it or lump it. The chances of a better offer from elsewhere are virtually nil as the auction has already

been long and exhaustive. Nor does soldiering on alone look like an option for NPI. The poor management of the company which has brought about its weakened financial condition meant that NPI had little future as an viable independent life office. Hardly a good prospectus on which to go to the market, as NPI policyholders are discovering.

UK economy

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund yesterday added its voice to the growing calls for more cuts in UK interest rates.

But the IMF, the Confederation for British Industry, the unions and just about everybody else you can think of may be disappointed, at least in the near term.

The latest indicators suggest the economy is not in as bad a shape as some of the more gloomy pundits were suggesting in the autumn.

Of particular note is the surprising strength of November's retail sales, released last week. Supposing the data can be trusted, which is a big if these days, con-

sumer confidence is not quite as low as feared. This, combined with evidence of continued growth in the services sector, may be enough to persuade the Bank of England to sit on its hands in January, although another cut is still on the cards in February.

In common with every other forecaster apart from the Treasury, the IMF finds it impossible to go along with the growth forecasts that Gordon Brown has assumed for next year and on which his ability to stick to the golden rule or borrowing only to invest depend.

The Chancellor believes growth will be between 1 and 1.5 per cent. The IMF, with the benefit of a little more hindsight and factoring in the impact of the Russian default crisis and the credit squeeze foreshadowed by the near collapse of LTCM, reckons growth will undershoot 1 per cent.

However, it does, along with Mr Brown, believe that the slowdown next year will be short-lived, partly because of rate cuts here and elsewhere.

This all means that the Bank should be wary of cutting too far too fast and storing up trouble further down the line.

IN BRIEF

Bass chief to get £400,000 pension

SIR IAIN PROSSER, chief executive of Bass, will be entitled to a pension of £400,000 a year in three years' time. Sir Iain, who is 55, will be entitled to a full pension from the age of 58 even though the normal pension age at the brewing and hotel giant is 60.

The figures were disclosed in Bass's annual report, which also revealed that Sir Iain has been awarded 107,000 Bass shares worth £717,000 as part of the company's long-term incentive plan. In the year to September, Sir Iain received a salary of £914,000, an 11 per cent increase over the previous year.

ONS confident

THE OFFICE for National Statistics (ONS) said it had "absolute confidence" in its retail sales data, following criticism of recent official figures by leading UK retailers.

The ONS said official retail sales figures were based on a 5,000-strong sample of firms drawn from all parts of the retail sector, and, unlike survey data, were based on cash through the till, rather than comparisons with the previous year's trading.

Modern fund

THE TREASURY yesterday launched a new £2.5bn fund to support innovative investment projects which modernise and reform public services. The Capital Modernisation Fund will be allocated to government departments on a competitive basis.

Panel firm folds

CHRISTIES PANEL Products, a manufacturer and retailer of fitted furniture, yesterday called in administrators after making 370 staff redundant on Friday. Pannell Kerr Forster, the administrators, said the Bristol-based company was forced into the move by the recession in the furniture market.

ICI sale

QUEST INTERNATIONAL, a wholly owned subsidiary of ICI, yesterday completed the sale of its Natural Colours business to Christian Hansen of Denmark for \$55m (£38m). ICI said the proceeds would be used to reduce debt.

United News deal

UNITED NEWS & Media yesterday announced the purchase of NewsDesk International, an Internet service which distributes corporate news to journalists writing about high-tech stocks, for an undisclosed sum. The news service, believed to be worth around £15m, will become part of PR Newswire, a United subsidiary.

Telewest stake

THE FRENCH conglomerate Vivendi yesterday sold its remaining 6.5 per cent stake in the British cable television company Telewest, in the stock market for £209m. Telewest shares rose 6.25p on the news to 160.25p.

News Analysis: How can life insurers provide the retirement income they guaranteed?

The £10bn annuity timebomb

BY ANDREW VERITY



Life offices are caught in a trap, but the Treasury has warned them not to cut back on the benefits pensioners can expect Brian Harris

severely, face an unpleasant gap between the amount they receive in pension savings and the cost of financing the annuity they had promised.

Worse, the actuaries of the 1960s failed to take into account longer life expectancy. As people now live longer, annuity money is stretched over a longer period. The life office

cannot afford to pay as much in annual income, but the guarantees may force them to.

The total cost to the industry is estimated by the Government Actuary to be more than £7bn. HSBC Securities estimates that further market changes could push this to £10bn.

Unlike pension mis-selling, the guarantees are spectacularly good news for customers, especially those about to retire. Without them customers would have to plump for an annuity based on current market conditions. With long-term interest

rates so low, these give smaller retirement incomes than they have done for 30 years.

Stuart Bayliss of specialist adviser Annuity Direct says that by insisting on the guarantees, customers can bump up their retirement income by an average of 25 per cent. Policyholders may be unaware that they can get this benefit: the industry does little to publicise it.

There is now increasing tension between the industry and the Government over the issue. Equitable Life, thought by some to have a potential liability of more than £1bn, is embroiled in a legal battle with policyholders who claim it should pay up on guarantees.

Equitable claims that it only has to honour the guarantees in respect of part of a customer's pension saving. The terminal bonus - a sum paid on maturity and often worth tens of thousands of pounds - need not necessarily be paid to people who want the guarantee.

Policyholders claim this was never made clear and are now taking legal action against the society. Equitable claims the

wording of its guarantees fully justifies its stance, but many believe the Treasury is becoming irritated by this attitude.

Last week Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, wrote a letter to the industry warning that the annuity guarantee problem must not be allowed to affect the benefits policyholders can reasonably expect from policies. In other words, life offices should not lower their bonuses to pay for the problem: any extra money needed should come from free assets.

The letter was interpreted as a veiled swipe at Equitable, which has comparatively few free assets. If it were forced to pay the guarantees from free assets, the impact on its financial health could be serious. It could even have to demutualise.

Ms Hewitt said the cost of the problem would largely be borne by the long-term funds of life offices. In quoted companies, these are 90 per cent owned by policyholders, while shareholders have a 10 per cent stake. So most of the cost is borne by policyholders.

But if the £7bn required to pay the guarantees grows, bonuses may be affected. In that case, says Ms Hewitt, shareholders will have to plough more money into the funds.

For the moment, most life offices have enough free assets to set aside the cost of the guarantees without slashing policyholders' benefits. But it could get worse. John Russell, a senior analyst at HSBC Equities, feels that is more than a distant possibility.

The cost of the guarantees depends on long-term interest rates: the lower they are, the more the guarantees cost.

If economists' forecasting a period of deflation are correct, long-term interest rates could fall even further, massively increasing life offices' exposure.

To escape further trouble, life offices need higher interest rates, and that needs higher inflation. Mr Russell says: "Having worried about inflation for the last 30 years, the hole the industry has dug for itself is to be in a position where deflation is more of a threat. Inflation could, paradoxically, let the industry off the hook."

Gloom deepens for textile firms

BY ROGER TRAPP

THE GLOOM in the UK textiles industry deepened yesterday, with Dawson International warning that profits for the second half of the year were likely to be significantly below market expectations and Sherwood announcing that four factories are in line for closure with the loss of 300 jobs as a result of a company reorganisation.

Both Dawson, the Kirkcaldy-based specialist textile and apparel producer, and Sherwood, the Nottingham-based lace-maker, blamed the slowdown in demand on Britain's high streets. But there were also international factors besides the strength of sterling.

Dawson said that unseasonably high temperatures in the US for the past two months had "severely impacted" thermal apparel sales. The combination of this setback with unprecedented product returns reported in the first half would result in the sales and profits for the full year being lower than last year, it added.

As a result, production levels and costs are being reduced in the coming 12 months, leading to an exceptional charge likely to amount to £6.4m being taken in this year's accounts.

Although losses for the year to 2 January 1999 are likely to reach £11m before exceptional items, the company is confident that the moves will strengthen its position. Peter Forrest, chief executive, said the group would be in a position to exploit any upturn in consumer trading.

Sherwood, which is the subject of a planned management buyout, said the reorganisation, expected to cost £8.5m, was due to continuing worldwide weakness in the demand for lace, combined with poor trading conditions in Britain.

The announcement of this exceptional charge comes on top of the £400,000 cost of closing the group's household lace operation announced in September.

With profits in the normally stronger second half of the year likely to be broadly similar to the first half's £3.2m, the company is predicting a pre-tax loss once these exceptional charges are taken into account.

| Insurer | Estimated exposure to annuity guaranteed problem |
|---|--|
| Equitable Life | £1bn |
| NPI (owned by AMP) | £300m |
| Scottish Amicable (owned by Prudential) | £300m |
| Sun Life of Canada | £114m |
| Legal & General | £50m |
| Prudential | £50m |
| Sun Life & Provincial | £50m |
| Norwich Union | Unspecified exposure (probably more than £100m) |
| Scottish Mutual | Unspecified exposure (more than £100m) |
| Friends Provident | Unspecified exposure |
| Britannic | Unspecified exposure (under £20m) |
| United Assurance Group | Unspecified exposure (under £20m) |

* Indicates insurer has already reserved for liabilities

USHERS OF Trowbridge the regional brewer whose shares were floated in March last year at 110p a share, is set to return to the private sector under its existing management after a chequered career as a public company which cost it an estimated £3.5m in fees.

Alchemy, the Guernsey-based venture capital specialist whose initial bid of 117p lapsed after just a fortnight last October

and 15 per cent above the closing price of 97.5p last Friday. The shares rose 13p to 110.5p yesterday.

Three venture capital groups which hold 49.3 per cent of the shares - Schroders Buy-Out Fund Number 2, SBC Equity Partners and Indelec, an SBC venture fund - have agreed to accept a reduced price of 106p for their holdings in order to bridge a gap be-

tween the maximum price the buyout team was willing to offer and the minimum price the independent directors were willing to accept on behalf of the private shareholders.

The management team will also sell their 7.7 per cent stake in the company in a separate deal, and surrender their options over a further 1.4 per cent, in return for a package of new shares and loan stock

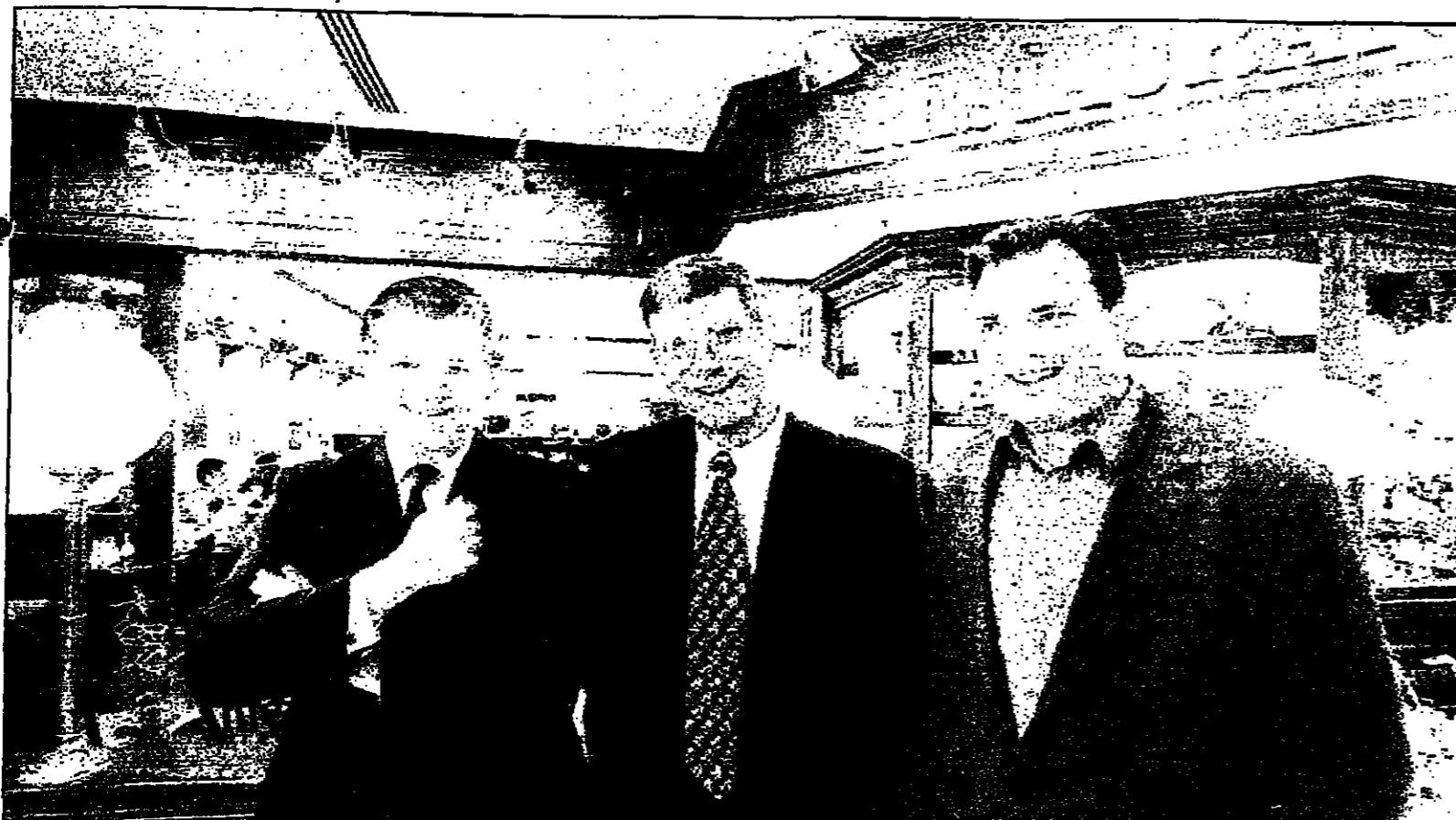
valued at £2.3m plus £6.25m in cash. Their contracts will be unchanged, and the 330 employees have also been given continuity of employment.

Roger North, chief executive, said the buyout would give the management greater freedom to run the business and end a period of uncertainty which had led to a drop in the morale of employees and the departure of several key managers.

Ushers, which owns the brewery in Wiltshire and an estate of 574 pubs in the Midlands, the South and South-West England and South Wales, was originally part of Grand Metropolitan, but was sold off in 1991 to a management team led by three GrandMet directors.

Profits in the year to the end of October rose 29 per cent to £13.4m after exceptional costs of £600,000, on a turnover which

increased 17 per cent to £82.3m. Profits were below market forecasts, reflecting the difficult conditions in the industry, but all three divisions increased their contribution to operating profits, the chairman Tom Vyner said



Coffee bar group City Gourmets yesterday took control of Newultra Limited in a £1.75m deal giving it six Rendezvous shops to take its total of coffee bars to 29. City Gourmets' shares closed down 0.5p at 29.5p. Pictured (left to right) at Rendezvous in Brent Cross, London, are City Gourmets property director Simon Brookes, chairman Nigel Whittaker and chief executive Gareth Lloyd Jones. Tony Andrews

Housebuilder Tay fights off rebel investor

TAY HOMES, a small Northern housebuilder, yesterday angrily rejected proposals by a major shareholder for a complete overhaul of the board.

The company said the attempt by Sunley Family Limited to change the management was a "loser". Norman Stubbs, the chairman, said Sunley, a privately-owned housebuilder, was wasting its time as the board had enough institutional support to defeat a shareholders' revolt.

The rebel investor, which owns 10 per cent of Tay, wants to Mr Stubbs and chief executive John Swanson replaced by Peter Hedges, a former deputy chairman at construction group Taylow Woodrow, and Sunley head Richard Tice. The little-known company is seeking to capitalise on some institutions' anger at Tay Homes' performance. The shares have been hit hard by the slowdown in the North of England, collapsing from 142.5p in March to 111.5p yesterday.

Sunley is understood to have the backing of Phillips & Drew, which owns 17 per cent of Tay. However, Mr Stubbs said the

current board owned 23 per cent and was supported by most shareholders. Fidelity, with 10 per cent, and Foreign & Colonial with 7 per cent, are thought to support the board.

"This is just an attempt by a £20m-a-year company to win control of a £150m-a-year rival without paying a premium," said Mr Stubbs. Tay, which has a market value of around £30m, would seek to improve performance and grow through mergers with rivals of similar size, he said. "We would like a market capitalisation of around £150m through tie-ups with other small housebuilders."

Tay announced that it would scale down its operations in the North-west due to poor market conditions. The company said it would stop buying land in the area, which accounts for around a third of its 1,500 annual completions. The change would save £20m at year-end, including 13 layoffs. The money will be spent to increase volume in Tay's other regions, Scotland, Yorkshire and Oxfordshire.

Photobition targets Wace with £42m bid

PHOTOBITION, the aggressive graphics group, yesterday launched a hostile bid for Wace, its troubled rival, valuing each Wace share at 52.5p and the entire company at £41.7m, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The offer was unanimously rejected by Wace's board as offering "inadequate value" to its shareholders, and it advised them not to take any action.

Photobition proposes merging its operations with Wace in a move to create a world leader in digital services with a network covering the UK, Europe, US, Australia and Hong Kong. Eddie Marchbanks, Photobition chief executive, said he had approached Wace's man-

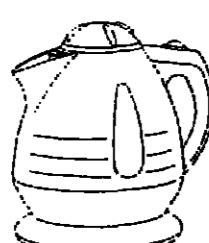
agement. "We had lunch about three weeks ago and I said we would be interested in bidding at a certain level. But they never got back to me."

A deal would almost certainly lead to job losses. Wace has 2,000 employees, about 500 in the UK. Photobition, which has roughly the same turnover, employs 1,050. "There may be a good reason why they have so many more staff, but I've got to get inside and have a look before I can answer that question," Mr Marchbanks said.

Wace shares jumped 10p to 51.5p, while shares in Photobition, which launched a 269m share placing to help fund any deal, dipped 1p to 23p.

Product Recall Notice

Dream Cuisine and Premier 360°
Cordless Filter Kettles



A potential problem has been identified with the above Kettle. Model Nos. WJ760, 761, 762 and BJ280, that could, over a period of extended use in hard water areas, cause the handle to overheat.

In the interests of customer satisfaction, and as a precautionary measure, the Kettles have been withdrawn from sale. Anyone who has purchased one of these products should return it to the retailer concerned where a full refund will be given. A receipt is not necessary.

In case of difficulty, please call 0181 787 3111.

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e-business tools

Tough markets prompt ASW bid for rival Co-Steel

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

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the combined group implements large cuts in production. Insiders said ASW's takeover approach was driven by its need to mitigate the effect of tough market conditions on earnings. They added that the two companies operated in the same markets and would be able to extract "massive rationalisation benefits" from a merger.

Sources said the deal could be completed this week. They added that a tie-up between ASW, the UK leader in the production of steel for the construction industry, and Co-Steel would lead to a number of redundancies among the enlarged group's 3,200 workers.

Most job losses are set to come from the floors of ASW's Cardiff factory and Co-Steel's works in Sheerness, Kent, as

£700,000 on turnover of £460m as steel prices fell. Co-Steel Sheerness turned over £150m, mostly in its Kent plant, which has the capacity to produce about one million tons of steel a year.

The company, founded in 1971, accounts for around a quarter of its Canadian parent's annual production. Co-Steel Inc is one of the world's largest steel producers: last year it had sales of \$1.6bn (£950m) and lost \$29.1m.

Buying Co-Steel Sheerness would help ASW strengthen its position in the production of steel for building contractors and civil engineers. It is already a leading European player with plants in the UK, France, Holland, Belgium and Italy.

Both companies said a merger would not give rise to competition issues as the European steel market is fragmented.

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blue
short
feet

| MAIN MOVERS | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|----|----|-----|-------------------|----|-----------|-----|-------------------|
| RISES | | | | | FALLS | | | | |
| PRICE/PER UNIT | | | | | PRICE/PER UNIT | | | | |
| MARKET | | | | | MARKET | | | | |
| HIGH LOW STOCK | | | | | HIGH LOW STOCK | | | | |
| EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES 2.915 | | | | | | | | | |
| HIGH LOW STOCK | | | | | HIGH LOW STOCK | | | | |
| 135 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 105 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 135 | 105 50 Angles Pot |
| 136 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 110 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 136 | 110 50 Angles Pot |
| 137 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 115 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 137 | 115 50 Angles Pot |
| 138 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 120 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 138 | 120 50 Angles Pot |
| 139 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 125 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 139 | 125 50 Angles Pot |
| 140 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 130 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 140 | 130 50 Angles Pot |
| 141 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 135 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 141 | 135 50 Angles Pot |
| 142 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 140 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 142 | 140 50 Angles Pot |
| 143 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 145 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 143 | 145 50 Angles Pot |
| 144 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 150 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 144 | 150 50 Angles Pot |
| 145 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 155 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 145 | 155 50 Angles Pot |
| 146 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 160 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 146 | 160 50 Angles Pot |
| 147 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 165 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 147 | 165 50 Angles Pot |
| 148 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 170 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 148 | 170 50 Angles Pot |
| 149 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 175 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 149 | 175 50 Angles Pot |
| 150 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 180 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 150 | 180 50 Angles Pot |
| 151 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 185 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 151 | 185 50 Angles Pot |
| 152 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 190 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 152 | 190 50 Angles Pot |
| 153 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 195 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 153 | 195 50 Angles Pot |
| 154 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 200 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 154 | 200 50 Angles Pot |
| 155 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 205 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 155 | 205 50 Angles Pot |
| 156 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 210 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 156 | 210 50 Angles Pot |
| 157 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 215 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 157 | 215 50 Angles Pot |
| 158 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 220 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 158 | 220 50 Angles Pot |
| 159 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 225 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 159 | 225 50 Angles Pot |
| 160 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 230 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 160 | 230 50 Angles Pot |
| 161 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 235 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 161 | 235 50 Angles Pot |
| 162 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 240 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 162 | 240 50 Angles Pot |
| 163 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 245 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 163 | 245 50 Angles Pot |
| 164 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 250 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 164 | 250 50 Angles Pot |
| 165 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 255 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 165 | 255 50 Angles Pot |
| 166 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 260 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 166 | 260 50 Angles Pot |
| 167 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 265 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 167 | 265 50 Angles Pot |
| 168 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 270 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 168 | 270 50 Angles Pot |
| 169 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 275 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 169 | 275 50 Angles Pot |
| 170 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 280 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 170 | 280 50 Angles Pot |
| 171 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 285 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 171 | 285 50 Angles Pot |
| 172 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 290 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 172 | 290 50 Angles Pot |
| 173 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 295 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 173 | 295 50 Angles Pot |
| 174 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 300 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 174 | 300 50 Angles Pot |
| 175 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 305 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 175 | 305 50 Angles Pot |
| 176 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 310 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 176 | 310 50 Angles Pot |
| 177 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 315 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 177 | 315 50 Angles Pot |
| 178 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 320 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 178 | 320 50 Angles Pot |
| 179 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 325 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 179 | 325 50 Angles Pot |
| 180 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 330 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 180 | 330 50 Angles Pot |
| 181 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 335 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 181 | 335 50 Angles Pot |
| 182 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 340 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 182 | 340 50 Angles Pot |
| 183 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 345 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 183 | 345 50 Angles Pot |
| 184 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 350 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 184 | 350 50 Angles Pot |
| 185 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 355 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 185 | 355 50 Angles Pot |
| 186 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 360 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 186 | 360 50 Angles Pot |
| 187 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 365 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 187 | 365 50 Angles Pot |
| 188 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 370 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 188 | 370 50 Angles Pot |
| 189 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 375 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 189 | 375 50 Angles Pot |
| 190 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 380 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 190 | 380 50 Angles Pot |
| 191 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 385 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 191 | 385 50 Angles Pot |
| 192 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 390 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 192 | 390 50 Angles Pot |
| 193 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 395 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 193 | 395 50 Angles Pot |
| 194 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 400 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 194 | 400 50 Angles Pot |
| 195 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 405 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 195 | 405 50 Angles Pot |
| 196 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 410 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 196 | 410 50 Angles Pot |
| 197 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 415 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | 197 | 415 50 Angles Pot |
| 198 50 Glengiven | 90.5 | 45 | 97 | 227 | 420 50 Angles Pot | 81 | -4,000.00 | | |

Blue chips in short supply as Footsie surges

FOOTsie ACHIEVED its fifth consecutive gain, stretching to its highest since the end of July.

Conditions were decidedly squeeze, with a blue chip stock shortage exaggerating many movements amid signs of end-of-year window-dressing.

Fund-to-fund bed and breakfast deals and the purchase of 236.6 million Ibsstock shares by CRH balloon the day's volume to an unprecedented 933.3 million.

Many major institutions are deliberately sitting on the sidelines in the run up to the launch of the euro. But the pending arrival of the controversial currency is thought to have provoked some defensive buying, particularly from overseas.

Footsie surged 134.6 points to 5,876.5. Mid cap shares were relatively strong, gaining 31.7 to 4,742.9 but the poor old small caps could manage only a 6.5 gain to 2,022.5.

Two still-speculative take-over situations absorbed much of the interest.

Wal-Mart's European arm

DELPHI IS believed to be near to completing two disposals - unloading its troublesome US offshoot, Alpine, for £17m and selling its 30.8 per cent stake in the French group Decan for some £28m.

Shares of the IT recruitment group rose 22.5p to 292.5p in brisk trading on hopes that the deals will leave the company cash-positive. The shares have crashed from 327.5p earlier this year and topped the 300p mark two years ago.

bitions continued to create excitement among possible targets, and the signalled British Aerospace merger with DaimlerChrysler and/or General Electric Co - or perhaps even a three-way tie-up - kept some players on their toes.

Ever since Wal-Mart, the huge US pile-it-high retailer, let it slip it wanted to expand in Europe the stock market has done its best to provide a target.

Asda, the supermarkets chain, is its favourite but MFI, the hard-pressed furniture retailer, and even J Sainsbury have been cited as candidates for Wal-Mart's attentions.

Asda, which said last week it had not had discussions with the US group, gained 6.75p to 159p, and MFI added 4.25p to 32p. J Sainsbury was lifted 5p to 469.5p.

Most observers believe the loss-making MFI stores are too small to attract Wal-Mart. But Asda, which also scored from favourable comments from Dresden Kleinwort Benson and HSBC, and Sains-

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

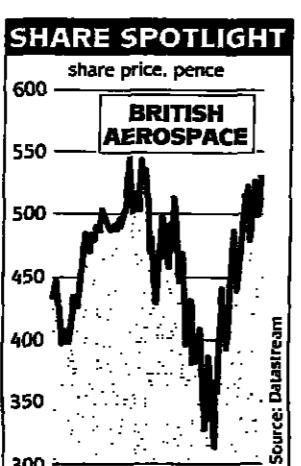
bure are much nearer the Wal-Mart pattern.

Bae rose 21.5p to 531p. It has been talking to the German DaimlerChrysler group for months and seemed near to clinching a deal. Then General Electric Co, up 27.5p to 566p, tossed its not inconsequential hat into the ring.

Now there are suggestions that the longstanding Bae/GEC merger has again been wheeled out and dusted down, or that GEC's defence operations will be injected into Bae. With the arrival of GEC the Germans are becoming increasingly unhappy about what they see as Bae's dithering.

Financials had a strong day, with Prudential Corporation 41.5p higher at 956.5p and Barclays 44p at 1,377p.

Reed International continued to benefit from rumours of a Microsoft deal with its Dutch relations.



ing the shares 13p higher at 110.5p.

But Dagenham Motors reversed 16p to 151.5p as its signalled bid materialised at only 160p a share.

Profit warnings provided a chill touch to the festive cheer. Gremlin, a computer games maker, slumped 34p to 91.5p; the clothing group Dawson International's latest gloom shot left the shares 2.5p off at 10p. They were once 159p.

Villiers, an engineer expected to announce a significant acquisition, hardened 0.5p to 9p, and MSI International, an IT recruitment group, continued to soar on its upbeat trading statement, gaining a further 44.5p to 249.5p.

The appointment of Jim de Moller, retiring managing director of Carlton Communications, to the board of Lynx, a computer group, was enough for a 15.5p gain to 181p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 932.3m
SEAQ TRADES: 56,922
GILTS INDEX:

COMPANY RESULTS

| Name | Turnover (£) | Pre-tax (£) | EPS | Dividend | Pay day | X-div |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Peel Holdings (I) | 38.50m (34.30m) | 6.25m (5.82m) | 4.93p (3.85p) | 3.20p (7.79) | 06/04/99 | 01/03/99 |
| UK Land (I) | (-) | 0.532m (0.500m) | 0.06p (0.03p) | n/a (-) | | |
| Univas (F) | 1.81m (4.97m) | -0.051m (0.33m) | -18.35p (2.20p) | n/a (0.25p) | 08/02/99 | 04/01/99 |
| Ushers of Trowbridge Grp (F) | 82.34m (70.51m) | 13.35m (10.32m) | 10.40p (6.69p) | n/a (-) | | |
| (F) - Final (I) - Interim | | | | | | |

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

| Country | Sterling | 1 month | 3 month | Dollar | 1 month | 3 month | D-Mark | 1 month |
|--------------|----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|
| UK | 1,0000 | | | 0.5950 | 0.5954 | 0.5965 | 1,6158 | 1,6175 |
| Australia | 2,7175 | 2,7160 | 2,7117 | 1,6158 | 1,6172 | 1,6175 | 5,9566 | 5,9566 |
| Canada | 19,795 | 19,766 | 19,725 | 11,769 | 11,765 | 11,765 | 7,0372 | 7,0372 |
| China | 58,028 | 57,871 | 57,601 | 34,425 | 34,425 | 34,425 | 20,984 | 20,984 |
| Denmark | 10,698 | 10,676 | 10,643 | 6,3650 | 6,3567 | 6,3485 | 3,8051 | 3,8051 |
| ECU | 1,4314 | 1,4274 | 1,4205 | 1,1766 | 1,1762 | 1,1762 | 0.8137 | 0.8137 |
| Finland | 8,5446 | 8,5344 | 8,5164 | 5,9508 | 5,9508 | 5,9508 | 3,5295 | 3,5295 |
| France | 2,8115 | 2,8034 | 2,7905 | 1,6728 | 1,6693 | 1,6645 | 1,0000 | 1,0000 |
| Germany | 47175 | 47190 | 47151 | 280.68 | 284.28 | 284.83 | 167.80 | 167.80 |
| Greece | 1,1507 | 1,1496 | 1,1491 | 1,4941 | 1,4941 | 1,4943 | 0.8951 | 0.8951 |
| Ireland | 1,1900 | 1,1881 | 1,1861 | 1,1753 | 1,1753 | 1,1753 | 1,1753 | 1,1753 |
| Italy | 2,7645 | 2,7760 | 2,7635 | 1,6153 | 1,6153 | 1,6153 | 1,2171 | 1,2171 |
| Japan | 195,09 | 194,05 | 193,90 | 1,6645 | 1,6645 | 1,6645 | 1,0000 | 1,0000 |
| Malaysia | 6,5220 | 6,5220 | 6,7233 | 9,7600 | 9,6853 | 10,0705 | 5,8347 | 5,8347 |
| Mexico | 16,404 | | | 1,6854 | 1,6854 | 1,6854 | 1,2720 | 1,2720 |
| Netherlands | 3,1688 | 3,1582 | 3,1452 | 2,8154 | 2,8154 | 2,8154 | 2,1271 | 2,1271 |
| New Zealand | 3,3200 | 3,3199 | 3,3199 | 2,6760 | 2,6760 | 2,6760 | 4,5882 | 4,5882 |
| Norway | 12,927 | 12,927 | 12,927 | 7,6574 | 7,6574 | 7,6574 | 5,7804 | 5,7804 |
| Portugal | 286,29 | 287,47 | 286,28 | 171,53 | 171,53 | 170,75 | 102,54 | 102,54 |
| Saudi Arabia | 6,3045 | 6,3100 | 6,3186 | 3,7510 | 3,7510 | 3,7510 | 3,6360 | 3,6360 |
| Singapore | 8,2945 | 10,0174 | 10,1897 | 5,9048 | 5,9048 | 5,9048 | 6,0781 | 6,0781 |
| South Africa | 239,27 | 238,66 | 242,35 | 142,07 | 141,71 | 141,71 | 85,105 | 85,105 |
| Spain | 339,27 | 339,65 | 340,21 | 212,07 | 212,07 | 212,07 | 142,35 | 142,35 |
| Sweden | 13,505 | 13,469 | 13,216 | 8,3611 | 8,3611 | 8,3611 | 1,3487 | 1,3487 |
| Switzerland | 1,2774 | 1,2774 | 1,2774 | 1,0000 | 1,0000 | 1,0000 | 0.5978 | 0.5978 |
| US | 1,6008 | | | | | | | |

OTHER SPOT RATES

| Country | Sterling | Dollar | Country | Sterling | Dollar |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|---------|
| Argentina | 1,6908 | 1,0000 | Oman | 0.6470 | 0.5850 |
| Brazil | 2,0278 | 1,2065 | Pakistan | 0.6470 | 0.5850 |
| China | 13,913 | 8,2190 | Poland | 0.5811 | 0.5800 |
| China Rep | 1,13 | 0.5811 | Portugal | 5,8330 | 3,4705 |
| Spain | 5,3799 | 3,4151 | Qatar | 6,1171 | 3,6395 |
| Ghana | 3939.0 | 2340.0 | 36129.4 | 21496.5 | 21496.5 |
| Hungary | 357.70 | 212.82 | South Korea | 2005.1 | 1,197.0 |
| Ireland | 71,482 | 42,535 | Taiwan | 32,241 | 20,000 |
| Indonesia | 12773.7 | 77,000 | Thailand | 60,759 | 36,150 |
| Kuwait | 0.3014 | 0.2800 | Turkey | 52,5562 | 31,0919 |
| Nigeria | 147,91 | 88,000 | | 6,1726 | 3,6725 |

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Investment: Disposal of most of industrial division raises expectations

Rexam sell-off keeps up the transformation

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Rexam took another step towards concentrating on its packaging businesses yesterday when it sold most of its industrial division for £195m.

The sale of its corrugated packaging business, to SCA, further consolidates what is a very depressed industry. However, it also further underlines the transformation that is taking place at Rexam.

The sale, was, once again, a raft of takeover announcements on the under-card. After the market closed came the Ibsstock bid. CRH, the Irish group, said it had 50.7 per cent of the brickmaker, up 0.5 at 57p, and would bid 70p at 57p, and share 10p to 1,019p.

There was, once again, a raft of takeover announcements on the under-card. After the market closed came the Ibsstock bid. CRH, the Irish group, said it had 50.7 per cent of the brickmaker, up 0.5 at 57p, and would bid 70p at 57p, and share 10p to 1,019p.

Analysts were reasonably upbeat about the latest sale. "The price looks very reasonable given the outlook for the UK corrugated sector," said David Newlands, an analyst at WestLB Panmure.

The disposal has also raised expectations that what remains of Rexam's industrial division - its bulk packaging businesses - will also fetch a decent price. That would take the proceeds of the sale of the industrial division close to £250m.

Nevertheless, a handful of analysts remain sceptical. They point out that economic upturn in Asia has hit demand for coated films and papers, Rexam's largest division, while some of the non-core operations have suffered from the downturn.

There have also been plenty of disposals, and there will be more. Rexam is in talks to sell the remainder of its industrial packaging division, and other divisions, including its printing business and a subsidiary making window frames, have been listed as non-core. Rexam has also returned £

SPORT

The word wars that made 1998

Winning the World Cup is the most beautiful thing to have happened to France since the Revolution. Emmanuel Petit of Arsenal and France.

Keep the planet clean: recycling footballers. Message on the 100 Per Cent Official Anti-Football web site on the Internet.

We're not much into football, but we support Scotland now. Mustafa Alsal, of the Eye of the Tiger restaurant, Bournemouth, after Scottish fans ordered £600 worth of curry and lager and an £800 flight to transport it to Bournemouth.

I'm out of the squad, Dad. Cancel the holiday to France. Paul Gascoigne to his father after learning that he had not made England's World Cup squad.

If we are going to die, then we will die standing. We will fight to the last. Iran coach Jalal Talebi before their World Cup game against the United States.

You only sing when you're whaling. Scottish fans to their Norwegian counterparts.

An infant Colombian coffee-picker wearing a dunce's hat and holding a Fifa's certificate. Danish newspaper on John Jairo Tovo after he sent off three players in the match against South Africa.

I am not an expert on soccer but I think the Brazilians are always hard to beat. Bill Clinton keeps his eye on the ball.

At this rate I will be defending myself in the Old Bailey soon. I'm not prepared to sit back and let people call me a cheat and treat me like a criminal. Croatia's Slaven Bilić on the flak he faced after getting Laurent Blanc sent off in the semi-final.

We were under Yugoslavia for 45 years and we couldn't say we were Croats. Now we can. Igor Stimac, of Croatia and Derby.

If we both win, I think the whole of Croatia will be drunk for the rest of the year. Croatian tennis player Goran Ivanisević, before the Wimbledon final and Croatia's World Cup semi-final.

If I felt I needed to apologise to anyone I would have done that by now. Glenn Hoddle, England football coach, defends his World Cup diary.

I'm not interested. What can a job like that do for me? You would have to be a masochist. Arsène Wenger, Arsenal manager, on the prospect of coaching England.

Sometimes now when I watch continental games on television, I'm a bit bored. I start to ask 'where is the intensity?' Wenger.

I don't believe in retirement. It is against the law in America to force people to retire. I still have plenty of damage to do. Alex Ferguson, Manchester United manager.

These press conferences are a waste of time. The best thing I can do is get in, show my face and ... off. The then under-pressure Blackburn manager, Roy Hodgson.

If they want to go and get someone better for this job, then let them. Hodgson. Two days later he was sacked.

You have to speculate to accumulate. Steve Cotterill, Cheltenham manager, on the sponsoring of 41-year-old Clive Walker by a firm of undertakers.

Obviously he has Alzheimer's disease or something. I will never have dinner with him again. Martin O'Neill, Leicester manager, feeling let down by his chairman over a verbal agreement during the Leeds United managerial vacancy saga.

Thank goodness transfers have nothing to do with me.

Terry Venables after it was revealed that £400,000 had vanished following the signing of Fan Zhiyi.

Our problem is not keeping the players out of nightclubs, it is getting them out of the banks. Paul Philipp, Luxembourg coach, on his team, made up mostly of bank clerks and insurance salesmen.

I'm not hiding under a rock. I want to look people in the eye.

Graham Kelly, after resigning as FA chief executive following the cash-for-Fifa-votes scandal.

At no stage did Wiseman accept that what he had done was wrong. He never said sorry and maintained that he had behaved correctly throughout. FA official on the meeting at which Graham Kelly resigned as chief executive and Keith Wiseman refused to as chairman.

The Pope put the ball in the penalty area. Now we just need Pele to tap it in. Eduardo Suplicy, Brazilian Senate, asks for Pele's help in ending the American embargo of Cuba.

He should only send in his letter requesting his reinstatement as an amateur with his death certificate. Senior PGA official on golfer Derek Lawrenson, who accepted a Lamborghini as a prize for a hole-in-one.

Please don't torture me any longer, sir. I made a mistake ... I'm not going to kill anybody. I'm not a mass murderer. Mike Tyson's successful argument to the Nevada State Athletic Commission to reinstate his boxing licence.

I have no self-esteem but the biggest ego in the world. Tyson.

Mike's not all that bad. If you dig deep ... dig, real deep, dig, dig, dig, dig. Dig deep, go all the way to China ... I'm sure you'll find there is a nice guy in there. George Foreman on Tyson.

It makes me feel like weeping; he's a guy I like so much.

FEUDS AND FURY

'If I had a sword I'd cut off his head'

He came into the garage like an animal, saying I tried to kill him. David Coulthard after a shunt with Michael Schumacher at the Belgian Grand Prix.

Coulthard Killer. Italian banner at the next race, in Monza.

My only regret is that he's not still a fighter because if he was I would have battered him. Naseem Hamed on Barry McGuigan, who had written about Hamed's troubled relationship with his trainer, Brendan Ingle.

Geoffrey Boycott: Shut up. Everybody's talking. I can't understand.

Translator: But I'm translating.

Boycott: Not very well.

Geoffrey Boycott, in court on assault charges.

This club is not to be sold like some second-hand Jag by Martin Edwards and his cohorts. Andy Walsh, of the Manchester United Independent Supporters' Association, on the proposed takeover by Sky.

Everyone was cheering, thinking it was The Wolf and Three Little Piggies story. But then it went wrong when one of the pigs whacked Wolfe. There was another



I rang my dad two minutes after and he really gave me a boost by saying, 'I knew you'd miss'. David Batty turns away after having his penalty saved by Carlos Roa in the shoot-out against Argentina AP

Roy Francis, referee, on the

hattering Chris Eubank

taken from Carl Thompson.

Cheltenham is unique. The

only limitation on the amount

of money you can take is the

speed at which you can shove

it into your satchel. David

Boden, bookie.

I picked up my artificial arm

and threatened it. Mathew

Butson, New Zealand skier,

on the wild monkey, one of

200 in the Nagano area, that

leapt into his hotel room

from the balcony during the

winter Paralympics.

We will observe the law that says spectators cannot touch the sexual organs of the artist. Owner of club in which Finnish ski-jumper Matti Nykänen planned to perform as a stripper.

It's the greatest English sell-out since Anzac Day. I think the English will have their own fatal landings in Australia and New Zealand over the next few weeks. Dick McGrath, Australian Rugby Union chairman, on the

match-fixing scandal.

Remember it is only a sport that we are talking about. It is not as if someone has declared war on us. Tony Banks, Sports Minister, on England's defeat in the

under-strength England

squad that performed dismally on the tour of the southern hemisphere.

The very fabric of the great game is being damaged. Jagmohan Dalmiya, International Cricket Council president, on the match-fixing scandal.

If you don't pick some new batters I promise you this will happen again in 2001. Ian Chappell, former Australian captain.

third Test against Australia. It's always been the same here: if you lose they give you funny looks all the time. They love winners in Australia, whether it's their own team or someone else's. Graham Gooch, England cricket manager, after the third-Test defeat.

If you don't pick some new batters I promise you this will happen again in 2001. Ian Chappell, former Australian captain.

She is of such a poor standard, she couldn't live in the ring with the worst amateur I could lay my hands on. It's a disgrace. Frank Maloney, promoter, on Couch's victory over Simona Lukic.

A lot of attitudes have

changed but you still get the obvious knockers. Julia Lee, Britain's leading female

rugby league referee, on how spectators react to her.

Life as we know it is now over. MCC member, after the vote to admit women.

We are not misogynists. We

love women dearly. But we

want to go in as a bunch of

lads to enjoy cricket, watch

cricket, have a few drinks just as

lads. Robert Lawrence, MCC member.

Winning a Grand Slam is

easy for girls. Marcelo Rios, tennis player.

My soccer boots and an in-

flatable doll, because a month

without a woman can be diffi-

cult. Belgium defender Eric

Deflandre on what he was

talking with him to the

World Cup.

She told me after the foxrot

that she did not feel very well.

She survived the tango but

went down at the end of the

quickstep. Alan Shingler on

his wife Donna, who suf-

fered concussion after col-

liding with an opponent at

the British Professional

Dance Championships.

WOMEN IN THE WARS

'All the English need are beer and toilets'

Yes I was drunk, I got drunk quite quickly — I'd not had a drink in nine days. Paul Gascoigne on the night before he was dropped from England's World Cup squad.

If his behaviour continues as

it is the boy's life will

progress in one of three

ways. He will end up in the gutter, in prison, or he will die. If he doesn't change I am certain he will never celebrate his 40th birthday. Steve

Jacobs, the addiction counsellor who treated Tony Adams, on Gascoigne.

In England, some players booze a lot. Those who have been out on the town and smell of booze the next morning are the ones I set out after. I chase them during training and won't leave them alone. I'm a pest from the first minute to the last. I can't stand those players who perform below standard because they choose to lead a wild life.

Dennis Bergkamp, of Arsenal and the Netherlands.

If you are dealing with the English all you need is beer and good toilets. Toulouse bar owner during the World Cup.

Two people have died today — an alcoholic (the actor Kevin Lloyd) and an ex-footballer (Justin Fashanu). When you put it into that kind of per-

'She went down at the end of the quickstep'

I'm finding it difficult to find a girlfriend in Barnsley. The local girls are far uglier than the ones back in Belgrade. Our women are much prettier. Macedonian striker Georgi Hristov.

If women want to put on

make-up or dance around their handbags, they should be able to. But they should be free to box too. Jane Couch, woman boxer.

There's not much chance of me being a page three girl, maybe a page eight. I can't be a pin-up cause I've got no tits.

Couch, after her victory in Britain's first women's professional boxing match.

It's always been the same here: if you lose they give you funny looks all the time. They love winners in Australia, whether it's their own team or someone else's. Graham Gooch, England cricket manager, after the third-Test defeat.

Couch is a freak show ... She is of such a poor standard, she couldn't live in the ring with the worst amateur I could lay my hands on. It's a disgrace. Frank Maloney, promoter, on Couch's victory over Simona Lukic.

A lot of attitudes have

changed but you still get the obvious knockers. Julia Lee, Britain's leading female

rugby league referee, on how spectators react to her.

Life as we know it is now over. MCC member, after the vote to admit women.

We are not misogynists. We

love women dearly. But we

want to go in as a bunch of

lads to enjoy cricket, watch

cricket, have a few drinks just as

lads. Robert Lawrence, MCC member.

Winning a Grand Slam is

easy for girls. Marcelo Rios, tennis player.

My soccer boots and an in-

flatable doll, because a month

without a woman can be diffi-

cult. Belgium defender Eric

Deflandre on what he was

talking with him to the

World Cup.

She told me after the foxrot

that she did not feel very well.

She survived the tango but

went down at the end of the

quickstep. Alan Shingler on

his wife Donna, who suf-

fered concussion after col-

Decline of the All Blacks likely to be temporary

THE MOST interesting development of the last year has been the decline of New Zealand's strength, relative to Australia and South Africa. Why, they have lost almost as many games on the trot as Bath. So far the authorities have stayed loyal to their affable and intelligent coach, John Hart - who is very different from the grizzled monsters that have been presented to us in the past.

I have never agreed with the modern view in rugby, football and cricket alike, that coaches or managers (or whatever they are called) are invariably to blame when things go wrong - that they have what lawyers call "absolute liability". By the same reasoning, I do not think they should always be praised as supermen when things go right.



ALAN
WATKINS

But there is little doubt that Hart bears some of the responsibility for his country's uncertain performance of late. At outside-half he has the reverse of Clive Woodward's perennial English problem. While Woodward is struggling to find

one player who can fill the position, Hart has two performers of world class in Andrew Mehrtens and Carlos Spencer.

Oddly enough, this luxury of choice seems to have affected the form of both players. Mehrtens' goal-kicking has gone awry. When he has been dropped to make way for Spencer, the kicking at goal has been even more fragile. Christian Cullen may be the best attacking full-back in the world - challenged on recent evidence by Matt Burke, though not by Percy Montgomery. But Cullen is even less reliable as a goal-kicker than Spencer.

What Hart clearly has to do is make up his mind about the outside-half position and whether he is going to accommodate the discarded player at second five-eighths

or at centre. He should then find a completely new and reliable kicker at goal.

It has been evident since his return from his medical trouble that Jonah Lomu is not the player he was. Whether his kidneys are better or not - one hopes they are - his heart does not seem to be in it. He appears to be going through the motions. He resembles a young fast bowler who possesses great pace and menace but whose back suddenly lets him down. He has an operation; it is successful; he returns; but somehow it is not the same. The confidence has gone.

At the same time, players, in England at any rate, who were alarmed by Lomu's sheer size during the last World Cup have become used to dealing with big backs. Any-

one who has had to tackle, say, Va'aiga Tuigamala in week in and week out, or Scott Gibbs for that matter, is not going to be intimidated by Lomu, even though he is built differently from Tuigamala or Gibbs.

The big back is a development that has come to rugby union from rugby league. There is another development, arrived by the same route, which also renders players such as Lomu less dangerous than they were four years ago. This is the two or even three-player tackle, which is not pretty and smacks of bullying, but is nevertheless both

much as they evidently have. Taine Randall, who was pushed into the captaincy too young and with too little experience, is clearly not an adequate substitute. He may also be at some difficulty in holding his place at No 6, come the World Cup.

There is the further question of body mass. New Zealand, to their credit, have never gone for sheer bulk. If a slightly more accomplished forward is up for selection against another who happens to be a stone heavier, it is the better rather than the heavier player who wins the vote, whereas in many other rugby countries the selectors' vote would go the other way.

The New Zealand selection policy has, until very recently, been completely vindicated. They have gone in for fit, hard, raw-boned for-

wards. As one Lions forward who has played against them, said to me: "They're very difficult to play against because they're all knees and knuckles and elbows, sharp edges everywhere."

The current first choice New Zealand pack weighs less than that not only of South Africa, Australia, England and France, but of Wales as well. The major difference these days is that heavy packs are, with all the training that goes with professionalism, as fit and fast as the traditional New Zealand eight.

But the decline of New Zealand is, I am sure, only temporary. Provided they can sort out their goal-kicking difficulties, they may well turn out to be the best bet for the World Cup.

Books for Christmas: The nature of rugby genius and the genealogy of a tennis institution provide the festive focus

Baptists of fire and Boks of delight

BY CHRIS HEWITT

bugger bonhomie. Add to this the author's eye for a story, whether it be the truth behind Barry John's premature retirement or Mervyn Davies' near-fatal brain haemorrhage, and you have a fine read on your hands.

Which is more than can be said for Bill McLaren's *Dream Lions* (Collins Willow, £16.99), a depressingly unilluminating thumbnail sketch of the leading British Isles performers of the last 25 years or so. Apart from the odd error of fact and carelessly miscaptioned photograph, there is at least one selectorial misjudgement: the absence of Ben Clarke, by common consent the outstanding performer in the 1993 series in New Zealand, as one of the four finest blind-side flankers of the most recent Lions era. Worse still, the writing lacks both humour and anecdotal colour.

Thankfully, that disappointment is counterbalanced by Peter Bills' chirpy labour of love, *Passion in Exile: 100 Years of London Irish RFC* (Mainstream, £20). Mind you, if you can't crack a joke or three with this subject matter, you should consider a stint on the *EastEnders* script-writing team. Consider Tommy Joy, a stalwart Exiles prop from the 1960s: "I remember Dick Spring [the full-back] who would later rise to Deputy Taoiseach of the Dail] coming over; we shovelled concrete together on a building site in Hammersmith. He did it for a couple of days, then went off to New York. He was a very nice fellow. He liked his pint and his parties. But I'd have to be honest and tell you, he wasn't much bloody good at shovelling concrete."

Of course, today's pampered professionals are not required to shovel anything other than pound coins.

They can still talk though, and they do so in numbers to Donald McRae, whose *Winter Colours* (Mainstream, £16.99) is this year's most obvious attempt to give a rugby reportage a literary gloss. McRae, himself South African, takes his Springbok upbringing as the launchpad for a meandering ramble through big-time union. It has its lows and its *longueurs*, but few of its 387 pages miss the mark entirely. Indeed, McRae's opening salvo, an emotional examination of his own apartheid-scarred sporting background, is easily the most involving piece of rugby writing of the last 12 months. If the rest of the book fails to maintain this early momentum, the failure is wholly understandable.

Edwards plays a part in the second of this season's outpourings of red-shirted Welshness. You might

why a good Ulsterman like Peter Jackson, rugby correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, should spend his free time recording the memories of the Lions of Wales (Mainstream, £14.99), but he has lived in Cardiff for more years than anyone cares to remember and besides, any account of the 'Lions of Ireland' would have sent his already legendary phone bill into orbit.

Jackson's choice of interviewees is inspired: all the Olympian heroes - Gareth, Barry, JPR, Merv the Swerve - have a chapter to themselves as do the natural comics. Bobby Windsor's contribution is chokingly, rip-roaringly hilarious - the story of the gin, the ice cube and the airboore thermometer is a classic - while Delme Thomas, that great man of Stradey, leaves an equally deep impression of rugger-



Gareth Edwards helps Wales to a 9-6 victory over England in his 50th international appearance in February 1978

Allsport

Dream that made the Davis Cup

ALTHOUGH THE first Davis Cup match was played in 1900, the centenary of the event has been brought forward a year, possibly to avoid clashing with other celebrations, such as those marking the 21st century and the millennium.

Starting in Australia next month, Dwight Davis's imposing trophy - the silver punchbowl with accompanying silver tray atop two huge wooden plinths (a third is in the making with 30 engraved silver plaques) - is going on a grand tour to honour the 100th anniversary of the moment in 1899 when Davis, a Harvard student from a rich family, was inspired to propose the event.

The trophy is due to appear at Birmingham's National Indoor Arena in April for the match between Britain and the United States in the first round of the World Group. The original Davis Cup match was between the United States and the British Isles in Boston in August 1900.

Davis's idea for an international tennis event for tennis occurred after he read newspaper coverage of the sailing of the America's Cup races. Davis and a group of fellow tennis players had just returned to the East Coast of the United States after a

BY JOHN ROBERTS

easy for us now... The Davis Cup offered me more immediate pleasure than almost anything else I accomplished in my career. My parents had brought me up to believe that it was an honour to be asked to play for and represent your country, and that is why I find it so strange - and so disheartening - that some of my compatriots seem to find it a burden."

McEnroe made his Davis Cup singles debut in the last match between the United States and Britain in 1978 final at the Mission Hills Country Club at Rancho Mirage, in the California desert. The turbulent left-hander contributed straight sets wins against John Lloyd (6-1, 6-2, 6-2) and Buster Mottram (6-2, 6-2, 6-1) as the Americans won, 4-1. "I've never been made to look an idiot on court before," Lloyd said. "Not by Borg, not by Connors, not by anyone until I played McEnroe today."

World-wide interest in the Davis Cup has continued to grow. Last year, 131 nations participated. But the United States Tennis Association is having a hard time persuading its top players, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, to take part.

The anomaly is addressed by John McEnroe, who, it may be remembered, gave the best and worst of himself to America's cause, in a foreword to the International Tennis Federation's centenary book, *The Davis Cup* (by Richard Evans, Ebury Press, £14.99).

"Davis Cup has brought countries together through sporting contact, often in the face of political opposition," McEnroe writes. "And, in the early years, it gave them the incentive to make those long journeys which are so commonplace and

easy for us now... The Davis Cup offered me more immediate pleasure than almost anything else I accomplished in my career. My parents had brought me up to believe that it was an honour to be asked to play for and represent your country, and that is why I find it so strange - and so disheartening - that some of my compatriots seem to find it a burden."

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As a brilliant and dedicated doubles player, usually partnered by Peter Fleming, McEnroe thrived on the special atmosphere of team play. And he was involved in the two longest singles matches in Davis Cup history, defeating Sweden's Mats Wilander in six hours and 22 minutes in St Louis in 1982 and los-

ing to Boris Becker after six hours and 21 minutes in Hartford in 1987. "That, for all his behavioural shortcomings, spoke volumes for his commitment to the cause," Evans writes. The Davis Cup, in which Evans acknowledges the diligent research of other authors, past and present, does old Dwight proud.

A biography of the founder of the competition, Dwight Davis - the Man and the Cup, by Nancy Kriplen, is due to be published by Ebury Press in March.

Given the retrospective mood, I take the liberty of recommending an American study of the game published in 1995, *Sporting Gentlemen - Men's Tennis from the Age of Honor to the Cult of the Superstar* by E Dibny Baltzell, Simon and Schuster, available from Sportspress, £20), is a revealing social history befitting its author, emeritus professor of history and sociology at the University of Pennsylvania. "This book is the product of over half a century of playing and loving tennis and a decade spent in writing and research," Baltzell says. "As Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr, once put it, 'A page of history is worth a volume of logic.' The prologue sets

the tone - "I began this book in 1984, the year Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe disgraced themselves and their country by their crude and rude behaviour in the course of losing to Sweden in the Davis Cup..."

The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Tennis - The Definitive Guide to World Tennis (by John Parsons, Carlton, £19.99) is not as modest as the title suggests. A labour of love, the book presents a broad perspective on the sport's great personalities and locations. Parsons pops up again with the text for *The Official Wimbledon Annual 1998* (Hawthorn Publishing, £20), illustrated by the Allsport photographic team of Gary M Prior, Mike Hewitt and Alex Livesey.

For the past eight years, Alan Little, the All England Club's honorary librarian, has produced what is regarded as the *Wisden of Wimbledon*. The 1998 *Wimbledon Compendium* (The All England Club, £20) is essential for anyone interested every aspect of the championships since they began in 1877.

The ITF World of Tennis (edited by John Barrett, Collins Willow, £12) celebrated its 30th edition this year. Good value, as ever.

John Roberts

Sixth new signing joins Halifax

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

FOR HALIFAX, hitting one out of two Wigan targets is not bad. One of the Super League's busiest clubs during the close season had their sights on Darryl Cardine and Terry O'Connor from last season's Champions. Yesterday, they completed the signing of Cardine, 20, who can play almost anywhere in the backs. The former Great Britain Academy international has played full-back, wing and half-back for Wigan, without commanding a permanent first team place. He becomes the sixth signing for a club which refused to rest on the laurels of last season's top three finish.

But Halifax's hopes of adding O'Connor to their pack have been laid to rest by the Great Britain prop agreeing a contract extension at Central Park. O'Connor still has two years to run on his current contract, but was regarded as available for a move for most of last season.

The late surge of form won him his place at both club and Test level. The extra year added to his current deal will keep him there until he is 29 and will intensify the com-

petition for front-row places next season, when Brett Goldspink from St Helens will expand an already healthy range of options.

Wigan's coach, John Monie, is in Australia considering how best to fill their one vacant overseas spot, with Melbourne's Brett Kizunorley one name mentioned in dispatches. The former Great Britain hooker, Lee Jackson, has won the first round of his contest with Terry Newton for that role at Leeds. Newton finished the Test series against New Zealand as his country's hooker, but the Leeds coach, Graham Murray, has signalled his intentions

for 1999 by awarding the squad number 9 to Jackson, who has returned to Britain after a stint with Newcastle Knights in Australia.

Newton is inevitably concerned about his future and has been linked with a possible move to Wigan, his home-town club. Murray has reassured him that he still plays an important part in his plans, although that could be as a utility forward and tactical substitute. The first test of whether the two players can be kept happy will be the Boxing Day friendly against Halifax, who may include Cardine among their new recruits for the match at Headingley.

RUGBY UNION

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

But Nicol was still a relieved man last night after leaving hospital following an extensive examination. "The good news is that it is just the medial ligaments that have been damaged and nothing else in the joint," said Nicol. "I should be back by the middle of February." Lesser men would have thrown in the towel a long time ago, but the Bath scrum-half has nothing but nickel-plated indifference to injury and pain.

The damage to the left knee is just one more blow in the Scotland scrum-half's sporting career. Indeed, with his medical history he has become something of an expert in rehabilitation. In the last five years Nicol has had his right knee rebuilt, damaged the medial ligaments in his left knee, suffered three awkward hamstring tears and dislocated an elbow. However, he has insisted: "The thought of giving up never entered my head."

The Irish Rugby Football Union has confirmed it will not be involved in the British and Irish League proposed for next season.

Nicol in the wars again

Wyer cutting a Dashing figure

LORCAN WYER will probably tell his offspring this Yuletide they will receive what is deserved. He has certainly delivered himself the same message and sees victory for Simply Dashing in Saturday's King George VI Chase under his George VI. Chase under his

We could call this horse and jockey Team Scalpel. Between them they have seen a lot of surgeon's steel.

Simply Dashing used to do a fair impression of a hurricane after his races until a series of soft-palate operations corrected breathing problems. Lorcan Wyer may consider himself lucky to be able to see a racecourse at all after an accident at Aintree just over two years ago which came close to mashing his face. Those who saw it found it difficult to refer to racing as "a game" in the aftermath.

Wyer's accomplice, Thronton Gate, fell that day, and the worn jockey had little time to consider his bruises before another runner came slicing by with his hooves. "My face was in the wrong place at the wrong time," he says. "A horse behind stood on my face and moved it around a little bit." Almost 10 hours of surgery followed.

"After about three days in hospital I asked my wife what I was like as there weren't any mirrors left lying around," Wyer adds. "She said I looked absolutely wonderful, which means she either loves me very much or is a tremendous liar because it looked a bit of a mess when I eventually saw it."

"Two minutes can be a long

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

time in jumps racing, but I don't dwell on Aintree much because I fell then and still feel now that I've got a few seasons in me. It's certainly not a job you can do half-heartedly. I'm pretty fatalistic and I think if things are meant to happen they happen. That's why I won't be getting too worried this

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Just Good Fun
(Ludlow 12.45)
Nap: River Wyre
(Ludlow 3.15)

week thinking about the race." At 34, Wyer marches on.

Simply Dashing himself has been a faxing horse to follow. Just over 12 months ago he won the First National Bank Chase with Richard Dunwoody on board at his barnacle-like best after the gelding had smashed into Ascot's ninth fence. Such was his rate of progression at that stage (his record read 13 wins from 20 races) that some judges expected the horse to appear from his box with wings protruding from his belly one morning.

However, the seven-year-old has not won since, largely because of his respiratory problems. Simply Dashing has finished runner-up on his last two high-profile starts though to good horses from Martin Pipe's stable.

"We don't get carried away with hype up at our place, but we have always thought Simply Dashing was a Saturday horse,

a big-race horse," Wyer says. "We've already hit the crossbar twice this season and if there is any justice it might be our turn on Saturday."

John Francome has promised to send me a frontal photograph of a P. McCoy so that I can see what he looks like.

It's not a bit of him I've seen for a while."

At Kempton on Boxing Day, Team Scalpel will be represented by Team Easterly, the father and son training partnership of Peter and Tim. The name on the licence behind the mantelpiece clock at Great Habton might be different but otherwise it is business as usual. And Peter would not mind a King George as the Christmas bauble is one of the few prizes to elude him in his sparkling career.

"It's been a very natural

transition," Wyer says. "The guy's or the old guy's or should I say still does as much as he ever did and there would have to be something disastrous wrong if he wasn't there working in the yard when you arrived in the morning. And Tim has always played a big part anyway so things haven't changed that much."

And so now connections who never blow their own trumpet are represented by a horse who could formerly have belched out enough air for an entire brass section. "We're not people to go over the top but we go there with a fighting chance," Wyer says. "Paul Cartberry (Wyer's fellow Irish jockey) has a saying at the moment after he's come in off a winner: 'I had the right stuff there,' he says. I think I've got the right stuff for Saturday."

Fitzgerald gets Imperial Call

MICK FITZGERALD has been given the mount on Imperial Call ahead of Richard Dunwoody in the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day. The gelding's trainer, Raymond Hurley, said yesterday evening:

"We had a meeting of the minds today and it was decided to offer the mount to Mick Fitzgerald. He has accepted and we are delighted."

It had been thought that Dunwoody would be offered the ride but his agent, Robert Parsons, commented: "Richard hasn't been contacted and he has no mount in the race for the first time in many years."

In last year's race Nigel

Twiston-Davies' gelding, the subsequent winner of the Grand National, fended off the thrust of Dom Samoura by a length and three-quarters, giving the Martin Pipe runner 13lb.

Meanwhile, Michael Hourigan is still looking for a jockey for Dorans Pride, who runs in the Ericsson Chase at Leopoldstown on Monday. Dunwoody has been the regular pilot for Dorans Pride but the former champion will be aboard Florida Pearl for Willie Mullins.

In the same day's Welsh National, bookmaker opinion is that Dom Samoura will avenge his 1997 defeat by Earth Summit.

With 21 acceptors left in yesterday for the £50,000 handicap, the sponsors, Coral, price last season's runner-up as their 3-1 favourite, with Earth Summit



Lorcan Wyer: in pursuit of 'justice' in the King George

LUDLOW

HYPERION
1.25 Just Good Fun
1.15 STANMORE (nap)
1.45 Flahive's First
2.15 Spring Gale

GOING: Hunter track - Good to Soft (Good in places). Chase course - Good (Good to Soft in places). NH Right-hand course. Chase course has sharp bends. **OB:** Course is NW of town off A48. Ludlow station 2m. ADMISSION: Club £14; Terraces £10 (OAPs receive 2nd refreshment voucher); 14-18 C. CAR PARK: Free. **LEADING TRAINERS:** M P (22 wins from 91 runners); D Nicholson 19-53 (34%); K Bailey 17-77 (22%); N Tidmarsh-Davies 13-79 (65%); R Darragh 16-69 (16.2%); R Darragh-Dockets 7-28 (7%); R Darragh 14-44 (22%); R Johnson 18-69 (18.2%); M Williams 10-20 (10%); R Darragh 14-44 (22%); R Johnson 18-69 (18.2%); 2.3000ft; 176 were from 490 races (success rate 38.7%). **WEAKNESSES:** 176 were from 490 races (success rate 38.7%).

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Return to France '98: England coach stands by his decisions and believes he was a kick away from ultimate success

Hoddle's regrets too few to mention

BY GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

THERE IS nothing like a heroic failure to blunt the critic's edge. To go down fighting against all odds strikes such a chord in British hearts that it evokes more admiration than a clinically achieved success.

It is a curious habit and one which has brought succour to many a gallant loser from Jim Peters to Nigel Mansell.

Glenn Hoddle's England team were this year's vanquished heroes and, six months on, the memories of summer still bring conflicting emotions. "Not regret, but sadness," said Hoddle when we spoke last week.

Thus has been a difficult month for the England coach. A dislocated family Christmas is to come, his employers are in turmoil and he has had to endure a series of television programmes raking over England's World Cup defeat to Argentina.

The two remembrances of England's match with Argentina were trying enough, but then had to sit through the BBC's *Sports Review of the Year* - which featured an electronically created shot of David Batty scoring that penalty.

"That was a bit of a shock," he recalled. "I've had very mixed emotions watching all the programmes. In a way they are great to see but it is very hard to sit and watch. The Argentina match was such an amazing game, that's why they made the programmes. If we had got to the final and lost 3-0 they would not be making programmes like that."

Indeed, any such programme in Brazil will, this Christmas, be more recriminatory than celebratory. Here the fact of defeat has been submerged by its nature.

"People remember our game as the best of tournament, like Italy v Brazil in 1982," Hoddle said. "When I've travelled around since people talk about it and say what a great game it was. It has put us in the minds of people overseas."

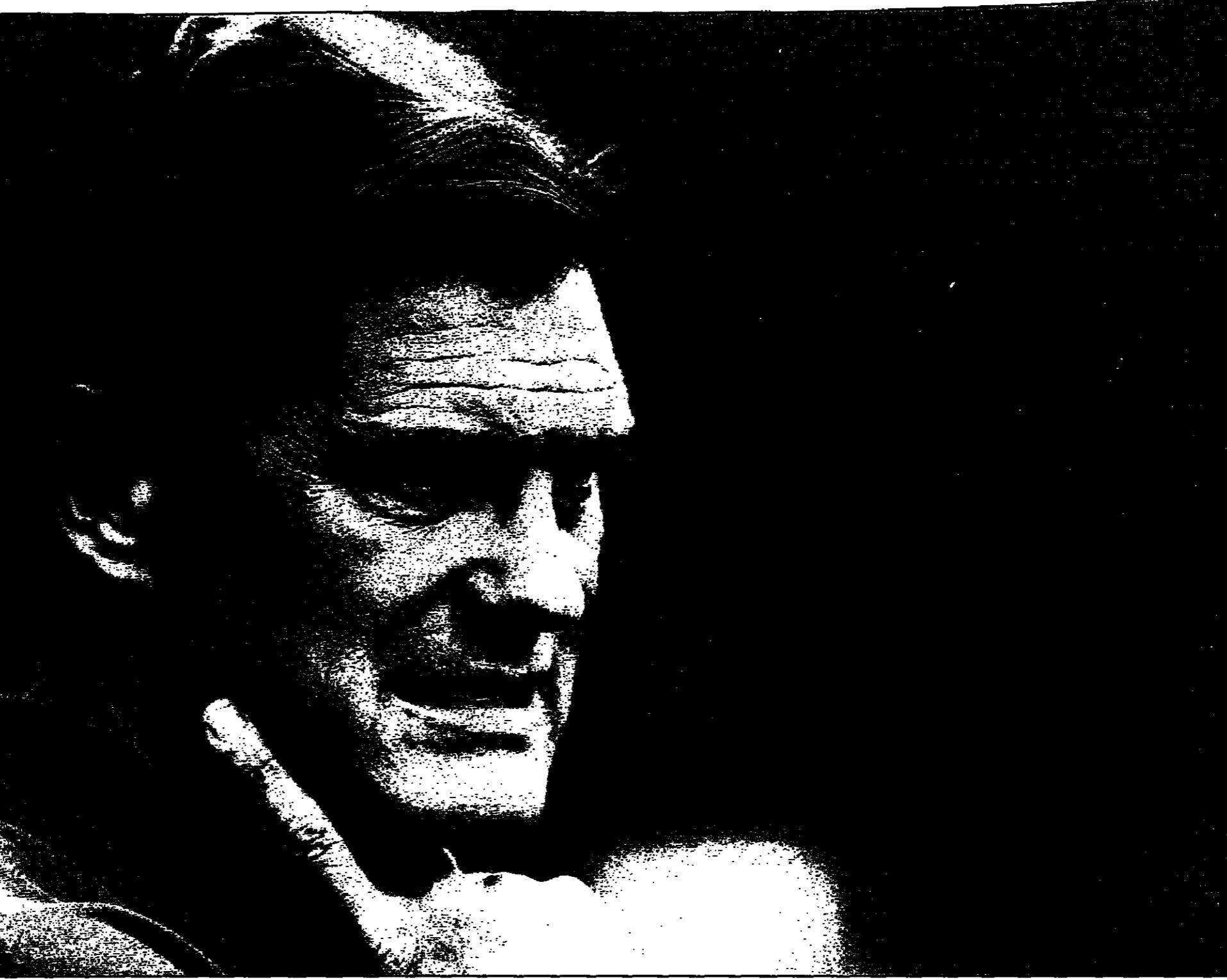
"When you are involved in the match it is difficult to appreciate it, you are focused on the game, but when you see the way it unfolded you realise how epic it was. It's then the emotions kick in. You also see how they got every decision."

The most vivid memory is of Michael Owen's goal. When an event is seen so often on television the video images can sometimes supplant those of the moment but Hoddle's mental recollection is still the one he saw from the bench. "From the first touch on the thigh, and the way it opened up, we knew immediately there could be something special happening. It was very similar to the way he got the penalty."

Owen's delayed World Cup entrance was one of the most criticised aspects of England's campaign. Hoddle's similar treatment of David Beckham and his choice of penalty-takers are also regarded, by many, as serious errors.

Hoddle remains as unrepentant now as then.

"At the time Becks was not focused. No one who is not working with a group of players can know



That penalty, that diary. Glenn Hoddle has been buffeted by the critics of his performance as England coach but he is proud of that 'epic' encounter with Argentina

Allsport

that. But he's been magnificent this season, the way he has dealt with the problems of the World Cup.

"It was the same with nursing Michael into the tournament. Look what happened to Ronaldo, he's older and more experienced but he couldn't cope with it. I've been there as a player, I know the pressures, it was the right decision."

Personally I have no knowledge of such a conspiracy though it is not entirely implausible. That Hoddle believes it suggests an embattled mind and, while he is bullish now, he admits he was very low in the wake of England's exit.

"As for the penalties. The four defenders were shattered. David Seaman obviously wouldn't take one, so that left five. Batty was fresh, he was positive. It comes to keeping a cool head, I've been there. It's not about practice, it's a mental thing, you have to put everything out of your mind and be very positive."

Then there was the diary. Again, there are no regrets. "Whatever I did there was always going to be someone having a pop. The book is an honest account of what was going through my mind at the time, a lot

of people have said to me it is interesting and a lot have said what a lot of rubbish has been written about it.

"I knew there'd be people looking to have a go. I heard some of them got together beforehand and planned it."

Personally I have no knowledge of such a conspiracy though it is not entirely implausible. That Hoddle believes it suggests an embattled mind and, while he is bullish now, he admits he was very low in the wake of England's exit.

"The two to three weeks afterwards were a really bad time for me.

I wouldn't say I was distraught but I found it very hard. I didn't do much, just played with my children. Of course, the first thing my son wanted to do when I got back was play penalty shoot-outs. He said: 'You're David Seaman, I'm Ronaldo. It was probably the best thing. If you had written a script, it would have been the perfect ending.'

Hoddle had been due to return to France to cover a quarter-final match for television but pulled out. "I said 'I can't face it' but I went to the semi-final in Marseilles."

This match, between Brazil and the Netherlands, also went to penali-

ties and Hoddle said: "I wasn't looking forward to it but it was a bit like the hair of the dog. It got me further down the line. You never really get it out of your system but it helped."

"I don't look back on the tournament with regret. It is more a sense of sadness. If we had won that game, and we were so close, the belief in camp would have been such that we could have gone all the way."

This, then, is much as expected.

No regrets, just a belief that, despite going out in the second round, England were a penalty, or a referee's decision from winning the tournament.

Not everyone would concur but it

is possible. England played some spellbinding football that night in St Etienne and, though the Dutch and Brazilians harried the way, the confidence gained from beating Argentina with 10 men would have been immeasurable.

Instead confidence has ebbed away as the side have stumbled into their European Championship campaign.

"There has been a hangover from the World Cup for many teams," Hoddle said. (Denmark, Spain and Germany are other examples).

Teams like Sweden and Bulgaria could focus on the European Championships. The Czechs, for example, came second in Euro 96, but didn't qualify for the World Cup, and have now started off with a flyer."

England resume their campaign against Poland in March but first face France, also at Wembley. "People said 'don't play France' but,

with Poland coming up, I wanted us to play at home with the pressure on us. It's a friendly match but, realistically, if we beat the world champions 3-0 and then draw with Poland, that's not what I want, I'd rather have the reverse."

Paul Gascoigne may be involved.

"I'm delighted he's beginning to address his problems and we are monitoring him over a 12-match period. With his ability he is going to have good games but we are not going to hear when he has an average game."

That suggests Gascoigne will need a lot of good matches to be selected and he may have to sustain his form until April to gain a recall. By then we may be closer to discovering whether Hoddle's England will forever be remembered, like the athlete Jim Peters, for heroic defeat, or, like Mansell, become a success.

TOMORROW

IS RONALDO STILL THE WORLD'S GREATEST FOOTBALLER?
RICHARD WILLIAMS REPORTS FROM MILAN

Red, red Rosler remembers the City slickers

BY JOHN SINNOTT

Kaiserslautern's feisty 60-year-old coach

"When I was playing for Magdeburg 10 years ago he tried to sign me when he was Werder Bremen's coach," Rosler said. "For some reason the deal didn't come off. Rehagel knows how to handle people. He never criticises players in front of the media; it's always done behind closed doors."

A lot of players look up to him like a dad because he has so much life experience. It's similar to what Alex Ferguson has done at Manchester United."

Rosler says his return to Germany has been eased by the fact that both his fellow Kaiserslautern strikers, Ola Marschall and Jorgen Rische, also come from East Germany. Indeed Rosler played his first professional game alongside Marschall.

"We have a long history together. There's competition for places, but we're friends and that makes it easier when someone isn't starting or not playing for the whole 90 minutes," Rosler commented.

Kaiserslautern, like City, are a club that like to do things differently, albeit somewhat more successfully. Last season Rehagel's team became the first promoted side to win the championship since the Bundesliga started in 1963. "I had a fantastic time at City and it was a hard decision to leave," Rosler said.

Most spectacularly, he grabbed a hat-trick after coming on as a first-half substitute in Kaiserslautern's final Champions' League group F match against HJK Helsinki. Rosler also could not resist the opportunity of working with Otto Rehagel.



Uwe Rosler is in goalscoring form for Kaiserslautern Allsport

Dynamo Kiev insist their star men are staying put

UKRAINE

THE "FOR SALE" signs hanging over the pick of Dynamo Kiev's squad have been hurriedly hauled down now that the Ukrainians have landed a lucrative European Cup quarter-final against Real Madrid.

The surprise package of last season's Champions' League after their return from a UEFA ban imposed for trying to bribe a referee in 1995, had run the risk of being reduced to a nursery for rich Western outfit. Top of the shopping list was 22-year-old Andriy Shevchenko, who first hit the headlines with a hat-trick in Dynamo's 4-0 trouncing of Barcelona at Nou Camp last year.

When the Ukrainians made a shaky start to this season's Champions' League campaign, Shevchenko and his strike partner Serhiy Rebrov were widely assumed to be Italy-bound by the new year. But while the veteran full-back Oleh Lushyn has been sold to Benfica and Alexander Holovko, who has been on trial at Liverpool, the rest of the squad will now be staying in Kiev to face the European champions in March.

"The fact that we qualified for the quarter-finals means that none of our top players, including Shevchenko and Rebrov, will be sold to Western clubs before the end of the season," said a club spokesman, Alexei Semenchenko. "Only veterans, like Lushyn and Holovko, who have done a lot of good for the club, have been given permission to move abroad. Other than that, our team will stay intact."

The Ukrainians, who make no secret of being unable to compete with Western clubs for wages, also sold their 30-year-old captain, Yuri

defeat by Israel's Maccabi Haifa in the European Cup-Winners' Cup, the coach, Alain Giresse, was fired. But results have not improved since Bityre reappointed Artur Jorge as the coach. On Saturday, they were beaten 2-0 by little Loriente and, to add insult to injury, the former PSG hero Patrice Loko hit both goals.

THAILAND

AROUND THE WORLD

EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

Kalitvinsev to Turkey's Trabzonspor last month. But the club president, Hryhory Surkis, has maintained that Dynamo plan to keep their two key strikers, Shevchenko and Rebrov, and hopes the veteran former Soviet coach Valery Lobanovsky can rebuild another, highly disciplined, fast-breaking unit behind them.

"They are not for sale," Surkis said recently, after persistent rumours of bids from Italian and Spanish clubs. Shevchenko has said he is happy - for now - to stay in Kiev drawing a salary estimated by club officials at around £60,000 per year, a fortune by Ukrainian standards but a pittance for a world-class player.

FRANCE

CHARLES BITYRE, the president of struggling Paris Saint-Germain, resigned yesterday. Reeling from a string of disastrous results, PSG, France's richest club, are in 11th place in the First Division. 22 points behind the leaders, Marseilles.

The Ukrainians, who make no secret of being unable to compete with Western clubs for wages, also sold their 30-year-old captain, Yuri

PETER WITHE is still a Thai national hero despite being caught up in a "coach-for-votes" scandal that rocked English football.

It was revealed last week that the Football Association had paid part of Withe's salary as the Asian country's coach in the hope that Thailand would vote for England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup in return.

That, however, has not dented Withe's popularity in Bangkok. The former England centre-forward took the Thai team all the way to the semi-finals of the Asian Games on home soil, after a sensational win over South Korea with just nine men.

Withe said his conscience was clear despite his part in the FA scandal. "I was asked to come here to do a job to help with the development of football in a developing country," he said after his Thai team lost their Asian Games bronze medal play-off with China 3-0 on Saturday. "I'm passionate about football and I'm a passionate person. I stay out of politics."

The match with China saw Withe reunited with his fellow Englishman Bob Houghton, now China's coach - 26 years after they last played together for Arcadia Shepherds in South Africa.

365
AND YOU'RE

Saints are hoping to catch 'the Train'

THE SOUTHAMPTON manager, Dave Jones, flew in the Colombian World Cup striker Adolfo Valencia for transfer talks last night.

Valencia, known as "The Train", could be snapped up by the Saints for a knock-down fee from his club in Bogota, Independiente Santa Fe, but Jones wants to see him in training first. The 30-year-old has won over 60 caps for Colombia and wore the No 9 jersey at the World Cup finals in France, so he would qualify for a work permit.

Valencia wants to cash in with a move to Europe after spending most of his career in South America, although he had a spell with Bayern Munich in Germany. He has a reputation as a skilful goalscorer.

Jones has been forced to look abroad by excessive domestic prices. He will also make a decision on the Peruvian striker, Waldin Perez, in the next 24 hours.

Perez, 25, is rated at £2.5m by his club Alianza Lima. He does not need a work permit because he has an EU passport.

Steve McManaman will play a match today for the first time in six weeks. The Liverpool and England forward, who has rested a nagging Achilles tendon injury since early November, will play in a specially arranged practice game against Bradford City at the Anfield club's Melwood training complex.

The German Bundesliga club TSV 1860 Munich have denied reports that they are interested in signing Liverpool's unsettled former German international striker, Karlheinz Riedle.

The 27-year-old German goalkeeper Stefan Klos is expected to arrive in Glasgow today to finalise the vice-president.

Celtic's shares are 'overpriced'

THE CONSORIUM pushing for control at Celtic may hold off from making a formal bid for the club, because they believe it is overpriced as a consequence of their interest.

The group, led by the former Celtic player, Kenny Dalglish, and backed by Jim Kerr, Jim McAvoy and the Bankers Trust are reluctant to pay above the odds for Fergus McCann's 50.3 per cent stake in the Park-

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

details of his protracted £700,000 move to Rangers from Borussia Dortmund.

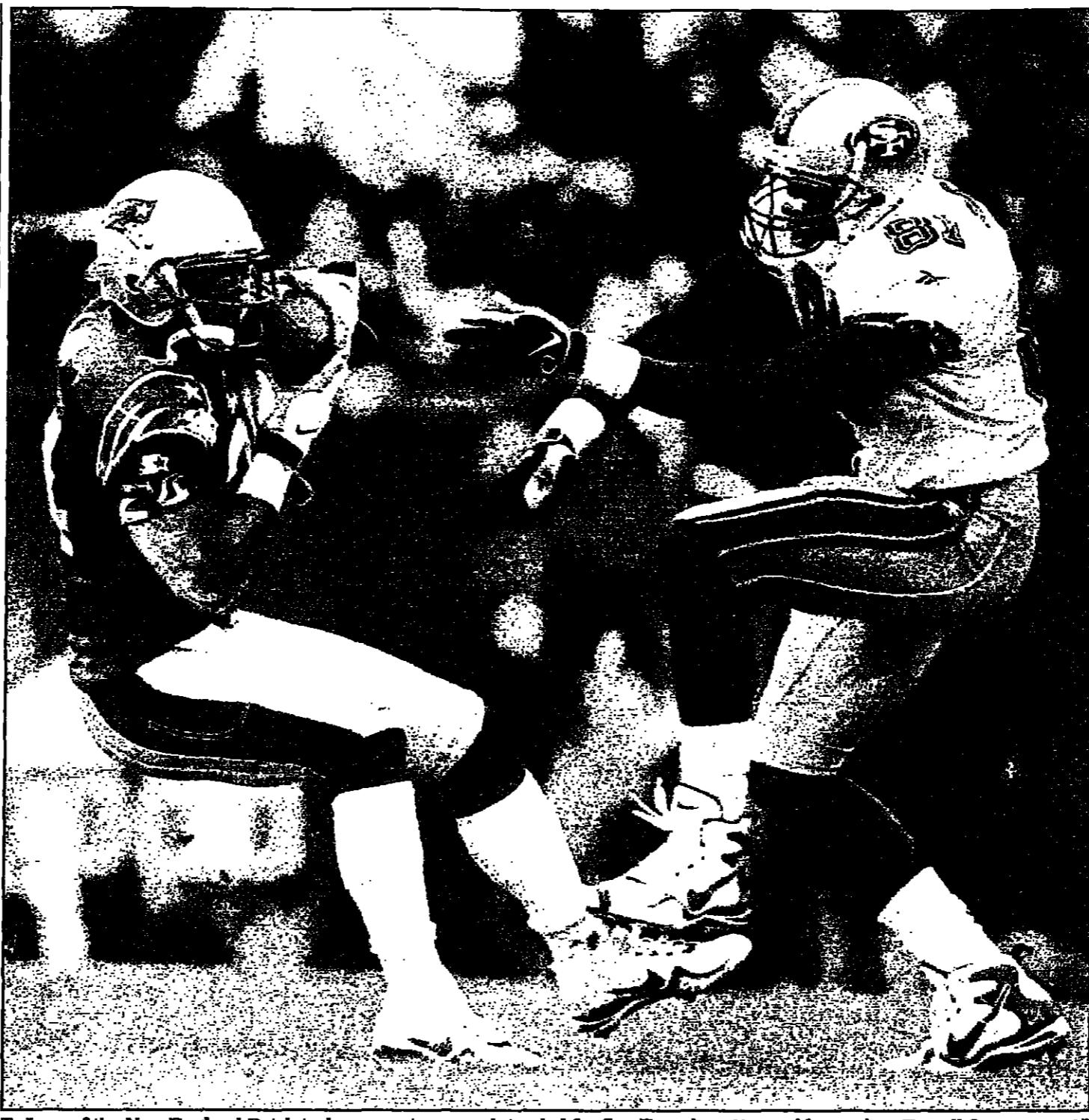
Rangers are also expected to tie up the £100,000 signing of the Northern Ireland Under-21 international midfielder Lee Feeney from Linfield later this week.

Port Vale yesterday completed the £175,000 signing of Tony Rouquer, the Hibernian winger, but anticipate problems securing a work permit in time for the Trinidad and Tobago international to play over Christmas or in the FA Cup tie with Liverpool.

The former England striker Mark Hateley, who was dismissed by Hull City earlier this season, has confirmed he is talking over a possible return to management with the Scottish League club St Mirren, who sacked their manager, Tony Fitzpatrick, last week.

There are fears that the special influence enjoyed within world football by the four home nations may be under threat. Since the end of the Second World War, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have been guaranteed the exclusive right to nominate a Fifa vice-president between them. But that privilege now seems likely to be challenged, due to the allegations of corruption aimed at the Football Association's chairman, Keith Wiseman.

A motion calling for the end to that right is set to be debated at a special congress of football's world governing body in Los Angeles in July next year. Scotland's David Will is currently the home nations' Fifa vice-president.



By Law, of the New England Patriots, hangs on to a pass intended for San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Terrell Owens

Skelton saves his best till last

EQUESTRIANISM

BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY

NICK SKELTON had to wait until the final day of this year's Olympia Show Jumping Championships before recording his first win of the meeting with a wonderfully polished display of speed and precise turns.

Riding 13-year-old Virtual Village Showtime, Skelton won the Eurosport Christmas Hamper by 1.31sec, beating Ireland's Trevor Coyle on Valdi and Britain's Di Lampard on Equity.

It was a timely victory, since Skelton is about to be dropped from the Virtual Village team. Now looking for a new sponsor, he knows that winning is the best means to that end. He had produced a class round against the clock when riding Hopes Are High in the Traxdata World Cup qualifier on Saturday, when he achieved the fastest time only to topple a plank off the final fence.

Showtime, owned by Sue Welch and who has twice won the Horse of the Year Show Grand Prix, has been with Skelton for seven years. The mare may be slightly overshadowed nowadays by the younger Hopes Are High, but she can still produce some sparkling performances.

After his own swift round, Skelton had been particularly worried by two of his remaining opponents: John Whitaker and Belgium's Philippe le Jeune. Whitaker was eliminated when 18-year-old Virtual Village Welshham he knew better than his rider. Landing over the fourth fence, the horse should have turned left. Instead he jumped the fence immediately ahead of him and that was the end of Whitaker's chance.

Le Jeune had been nipping round smartly until his mount, Valiska Forever, was caught unaware by the penultimate obstacle, which was a small "bounce" - a double in which there was no room for a non-jumping stride - and he stopped there.

Beat Mandli, from Switzerland, won the earlier P&O Events Christmas Eve Six Bar on Gravur 004 - a nine-year-old he has been riding for only three weeks. "He is very careful and has a good brain," Mandli said, after jumping four clear rounds to gain his first win with the horse.

Second place was shared by Andrew Davies on Satchmo and Germany's Rene Tebbel on Le Patron. Davies, whose yard is on Cardigan Bay in Wales, had only entered his mount at the last moment and it must have seemed like a silly idea when he had a crashing fall in the collecting ring before his first round. He nevertheless jumped three clear rounds in the arena, before having one error on his fourth appearance.

Davies used to ride Skelton's current top mount, Hopes Are High, and he was distressed when David Broome (then the owner) decided in June on a change of jockey. The 24-year-old Davies has a natural talent, which was recognised yesterday when he received the Raymond Brooks-Ward Memorial Trophy, which is awarded to the rider aged 25-or-under who shows the most potential.

Inspired Falcons fly high on emotion to claim title

WITH JUST one week remaining in the regular season, the play-off picture is finally starting to make sense.

In the NFC, the Minnesota Vikings clinched home advantage through the play-offs with a remarkable 50-10 humiliation of the Jacksonville Jaguars, while victories for the Dallas Cowboys and the Atlanta Falcons confirmed their continued participation into January. The Green Bay Packers and the San Francisco 49ers have earned wild card berths, while the final spot will go to either Arizona Tampa Bay or the New York Giants.

In the AFC, Denver, Jacksonville and the New York Jets are divisional winners, while Buffalo and the New England Patriots have secured wild cards. Barring a late season collapse, the Miami Dolphins should see off the challenge of the Tennessee Oilers to claim the last place.

The most emotional game of the weekend came in Detroit, where the Atlanta Falcons secured only their

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

BY NICK HALLING

second NFC West title with a 24-17 win over the Lions. The win was achieved without their head coach, Dan Reeves, who underwent quadruple heart bypass surgery last Monday, but there is little doubt that his absence acted as a source of inspiration for the team.

"This win today was special, just special," said the running back Jamal Anderson, whose one-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter secured victory. "It was a little scary, but I'm glad he got to watch us win. He's a good man."

Under Reeves' shrewd guidance, the Falcons have enjoyed the best season in their history, but Sunday's joy was tempered by the news that the coach has been readmitted to hospital in Atlanta, after watching his team triumph on television at home.

Elsewhere, the New England Patriots booked their place with a 24-21 triumph over the San Francisco 49ers. The kicker, Adam Vinatieri, converted a 35-yard field goal as time expired to win the game, but the real hero was the quarterback, Scott Zolak. Pressed into service because of Drew Bledsoe's broken finger, Zolak made only his second start in six years, but threw a pair of touchdown passes and providing the maturity and motivation needed in a tense situation.

There was also plenty of motivation for the Arizona Cardinals, who are now one win away from their first post-season appearance in 16 years following their narrow 19-17 triumph over the New Orleans Saints. Trailing by a point, the Cards prevailed as time expired when Chris Jacke nailed a 36-yard field goal. Arizona will qualify for the play-offs if they beat the San Diego Chargers next week.

However, the Minnesota Vikings will now be established as Super Bowl favourites following their demolition of Jacksonville. Admittedly, the Jaguars were forced to start their rookie quarterback, Jonathan Quinn, but he cannot take sole responsibility for another awesome Viking performance.

Minnesota's quarterback, Randall Cunningham, broke his non-throwing hand in the game, but still completed three touchdown passes. Even the defense got into the act, Jimmy Hitchcock intercepting a Quinn pass and returning it 30 yards for a touchdown.

The kicker, Gary Anderson, converted four more field goals to extend his NFL record streak: he has yet to miss this season.

The Vikings need 12 points from Saturday's game with the Tennessee Oilers to break the all-time NFL record of 641, set by the Washington Redskins in 1983. The Oilers need to win to keep their slender play-off hopes alive.

close with no more than two points separating us," he said.

Ayr left London on Sunday wondering how they failed to take two points with them after dominating their clash with the Knights. The Scots had to settle for a share of the spoils after being held to a 2-2 draw in overtime by the Superleague's bottom team.

Devils' hot streak puts Superleague summit in sight

ICE HOCKEY

a 5-2 embarrassment of the grand slam champions, Ay Scottish Eagles, last Saturday, Cardiff have only conceded four goals.

Breaking down a defence that tight will prove to be the biggest problem for the Cobras coach, Alex Dampier. "They are one of the

strongest teams in the league now. Goaltending is one of their key areas with Derek Herlofsky having put in some inspired performances this season, along with Stevie Lyle.

"Their defence is also very solid and can contribute to the offensive side of their game, with Kip Noble being one of the highest scorers on the team. But the biggest problem

is that they can score from anywhere," he said.

Cobras, in contrast to Cardiff's form, have lost three of their last four and are second from bottom.

But Heavey knows Newcastle

have the ability to pull off a shock.

"We haven't played them since the opening game of the league season. But all three matches have been

close with no more than two points separating us," he said.

Ayr left London on Sunday wondering how they failed to take two points with them after dominating their clash with the Knights. The Scots had to settle for a share of the spoils after being held to a 2-2 draw in overtime by the Superleague's bottom team.

SPORTING DIGEST

Arsenal are giving a trial to Andres Flores, a 21-year-old Estonian international forward who plays for Flora Tallinn.

PONTINS LEAGUE Second Division Postponed: Newcastle v Shrewsbury.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE First Division: Dundee United v St Mirren.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE COMPETITION First: Dundee: Luzon 3 Tottenham 0.

Postponed: Cambridge v Brentford.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: TOTTENHAM 0-0 NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Fixture change: Fri 19 Feb: Sheffield v Bradford City (from 20 Feb).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: TOTTENHAM 0-0 NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Kilmarnock 2 (Wright 38, 51, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105). (Preston) South Australia 503-6 dec and 84-5; Western Australia 354-8 dec (Darryn 72).

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SPORT

GLENN HODDLE REFLECTS P24 • KING EDWARDS IN HIS PRIME P21



BY GLE
Football

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Di Canio disputes suspension

PAOLO DI CANIO yesterday appealed to the Premier League against a two-week suspension imposed upon him by Sheffield Wednesday.

Di Canio is now nine days overdue from a period of compassionate leave - he was allowed home to bring his wife, Elisabetta, and baby daughter back to England. The 30-year-old striker's non-appearance led to Wednesday suspending him for 14 days without pay from 12 December, a ruling which has infuriated Di Canio.

FOOTBALL
BY IAN PARKES

Wednesday's secretary, Graham Mackrell, said: "I understand from the Premier League he has appealed against the imposition of our suspension for his failure to report back."

Di Canio would be eligible to return in Saturday's home match against Leicester after an 11-game suspension for his show on referee Paul Alcock.

Wednesday are threatening to place Di Canio on the trans-

fer list as he remains incomunicado in his wife's home town of Terl, near Rome. The striker's agent, Moreno Roggi, has since said Di Canio is suffering from stress and depression and is unlikely to fly back until 4 January at the earliest. He said a doctor's certificate verifies the illness, leaving Wednesday with no grounds to enforce the suspension.

Mackrell said: "I think we can now assume he will not be available for our game on Box-

ing Day and will remain in Italy for the time being. We are hoping he will return but any suggestion of us flying out to talk to him are out of the question. He is a contracted employee of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and we are entitled to expect him to work."

A hearing will be held next month, with the relationship between club and player almost at breaking point. Di Canio has already been fined a staggering £78,000 by the club and the Football Association, added to

which were the £12,000 in legal costs for his disciplinary commission hearing.

The referee Paul Durkin, who sent off Arsenal's Gilles Grimandi during the Gunners' victory over Leeds on Sunday, has dismissed the Frenchman's claims that he did not head-butt Leeds' Alan Smith. Durkin said: "I'm not even contemplating changing my mind."

Grimandi declared his intention to appeal after becoming the fifth Arsenal player to be sent off this season.

"I never touched the other player with my head and I would like the authorities to look at my case," Grimandi said.

Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger, joined Grimandi's defence, saying: "Grimandi was badly fouled two or three times. And then the guy stamped on him before he was sent off."

But Wenger added that his defender was ill-judged in his reaction. "Grimandi made a movement of head-butting him but didn't touch him. It was a bad reaction. He shouldn't have done it," he said.

Return to France '98, page 24

Honda heads back to F1 fray

MOTOR RACING

HONDA MOTORS announced in Tokyo yesterday that it plans to return to the Formula One circuit with a full racing team in 2000, marking the end of an eight-year absence from the sport its engines once dominated.

The Honda president, Hiroyuki Yoshino, told reporters that a comprehensive team, using its own engine, chassis and management, would begin full-scale testing early next year with an eye on the 2000 championship.

The new team means Honda's approach will be similar to that of the Italian constructor, Ferrari, which manages its own team as well as making its own engines and chassis. Other major car makers on the circuit supply their engines for independent racing teams to use.

Honda had announced its intention to return to the track earlier this year but had given no date for its comeback, which has been the subject of much speculation in the Japanese sports press.

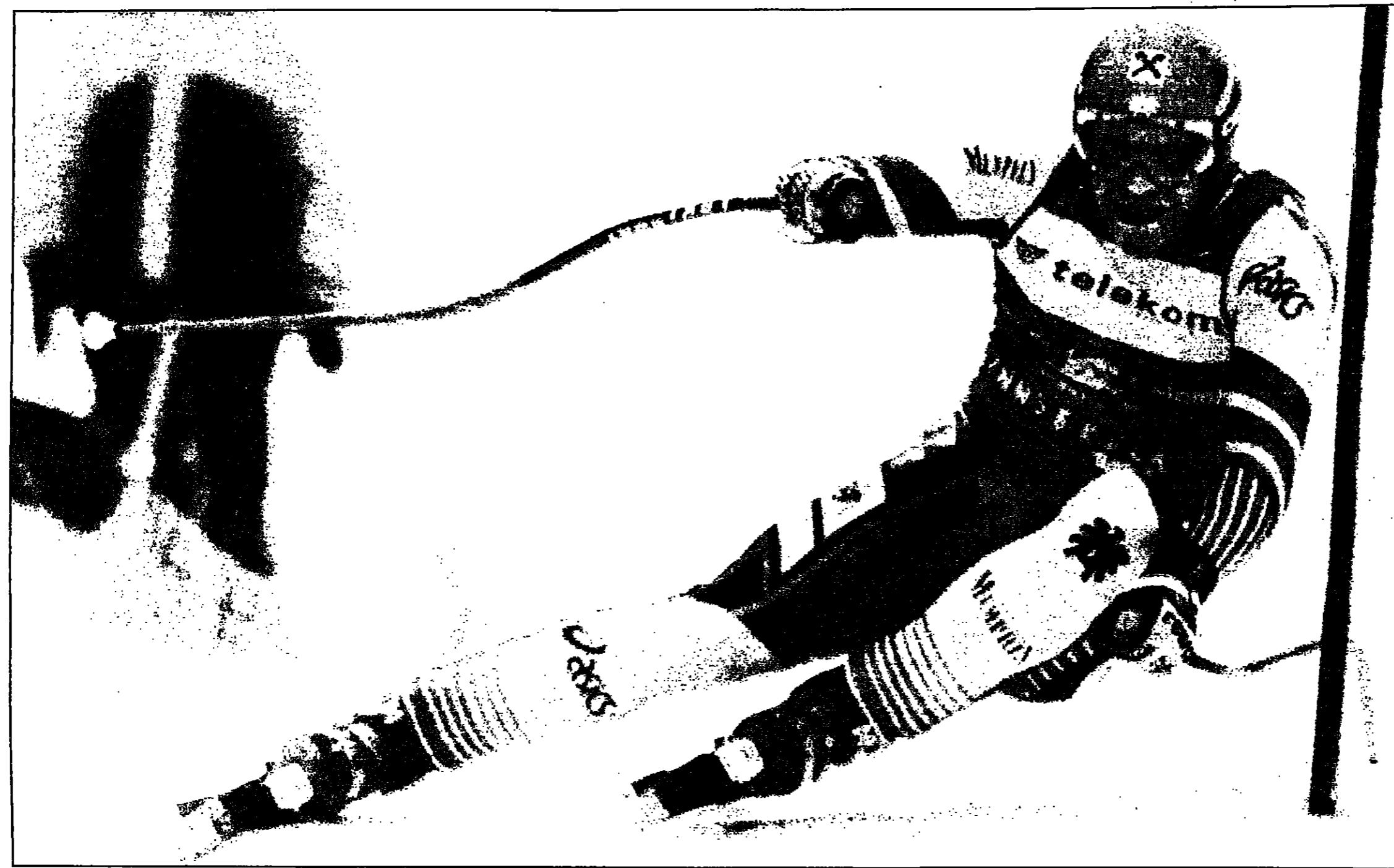
Yoshino said that many of Honda's engineers joined the company out of an interest in F1 racing and that the return would give a healthy boost to morale.

He doubted that the company would be able to win the championship during its first year back on the circuit, although it hoped to be a viable contender within three years.

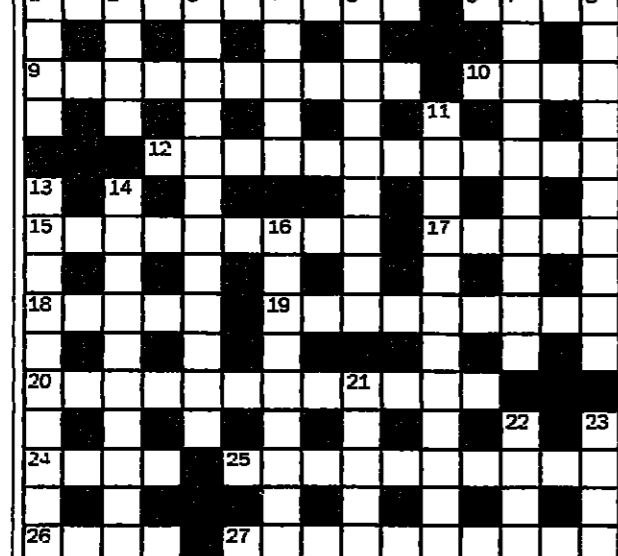
Honda took part in F1 racing as a full team from 1964 and 1968, winning two out of 35 races.

However, the manufacturer shot to prominence in the sport in the late 1980s and early 1990s when it dominated the constructors' championship, winning the title a record six consecutive years until 1991.

Honda withdrew from motor racing after the completion of the 1992 circuit, stating that it had achieved its objectives in the sport.



THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD
No.3300 Tuesday 22 December
by Aledred
Monday's Solution



ACROSS
1 As I do right, for example, one finds French diplomats here (4,6)
6 Some theft, serious, of news (4)
9 Antipope is deposed as being out of place (10)
10 Form of art produced by French firm (4)
12 Men delay actively suppressing call in a round-about way (12)
15 Outstanding bad debts taken on, say, by man (9)
17 Put off person with reduced food intake abandoning one (5)
18 Almost carry can for Gospel writer (5)
19 Robber and object of his attention near Glasgow (9)
20 Advantage of road mark-7

INGS where streets are paved with gold? (6,6)
24 Woman's Liberal and radical (4)
25 China expert but not Dresden (10)
26 Some poseur overseas has new money (4)
27 3,600 coulombs could cause Europe harm (6,4)
28 Men delay actively suppressing call in a round-about way (12)
1 Queen is on radio to pose some questions (4)
2 A fish jelly (4)
3 Pled in impassioned way about work to foreman's other half? (12)
18 Almost carry can for Gospel writer (5)
19 Robber and object of his attention near Glasgow (9)
20 Advantage of road mark-7

Scare about English ve-

hicle which is on US train (7,3)
8 It suggests Tony's peniless (5,5)
11 Domestic men working for average rewards (6,6)
13 Proper car for US property (4,6)
14 Machine to keep tabs on chicken? (10)
16 Company put up money to back popular movement's mysterious doctrine (9)
21 She was all tears in throwing up honour (5)
22 British circle includes rising Rhode Island writer (4)
23 Polaris is supported by sailor (4)

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16 Company put up money to back popular movement's mysterious doctrine (9)
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22 British circle includes rising Rhode Island writer (4)
23 Polaris is supported by sailor (4)

Austrians sweep to world record

HERMANN MAIER followed in the tracks of his hero, Franz Klammer, leading a record Austrian sweep of the top nine places in the 1998 World Cup super-G in front of 20,000 fans yesterday.

It was the first major race held on Innsbruck's Patscherkofel slope since the Austrian Klammer's memorable down-

hill run for 1976 Olympic gold

and the most dominant per-

formance by one country in 30

years of the World Cup.

French women had held the previous record when they took the top six spots in a downhill run in Abetone, Italy, in 1968.

An emotional Maier, who came away from the Nagano Olympics this year with two gold medals and the memory of an astounding downhill crash,

said: "I was miles away from the ideal track today. I was so tired and was so wide going around the gates, I felt and must have looked like Franz Klammer in the '76 Olympics."

"But I was obviously fast enough for victory. We need more races like this - the spectators were amazing and the piste was perfectly prepared."

skiers. Egon Zimmermann captured the downhill gold medal in the first Olympics hosted in the Tyrolean provincial capital in 1964.

Maier and his eight other successful team-mates were congratulated by numerous former Austrian champions in the finish area - including Klammer, the 1980 Olympic champion Leonhard Stock, the 1982 world champion Harti Weirather and the 1992 gold medallist Patrick Ortler.

Yesterday Maier beat Christian Mayer by 0.76sec while Fritz Strobl stunned his own team-mates by edging Stephan Eberharter out of third.

They were followed by Rainer Salzgeber, Hans Knauss, Patrick Wirth, Andreas Schifferer and Werner Franz. The best placed non-Austrian was Norway's Lasse Pausen in 12.453.

"Second place was fine," Mayer said. "The best thing about the day were the crowds, the buzz and the fantastic piste."

Austrian schoolchildren in the Tyrol were given the day off so that they could attend.

"For me
will always
Christin



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of smoothness and
strength, with a subtle
blend of flavours.

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Ale.

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Edmonson on a roll

RICHARD EDMONDSON, the *Independent's* Racing Correspondent (pictured left), struck again with his nap selection yesterday to maintain his lead at the top of the *Racing Post* tipsters' table. Yesterday's success with Rainstorm at 5-2, followed a

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Kevin Lawrence



BY BERYL BAINBRIDGE

I said, 'Mummy, what's it like to be old?' She said, 'Inside, I'm still 25.' Then her eyes filled up and a drop of water fell down her cheek. Two weeks later she died, alone

And now I am old

Thirty years ago, my mother travelled up from Liverpool to stay with me, something she did every four months or so. It was winter and she wore her beaver fur coat, a garment so heavy in weight that she tottered under its load. Every time her taxi halted outside, I ran to the door with love and pleasure in my heart. An hour or so later, the feeling had evaporated and I wondered how I would get through the next four days, not because the love had gone but rather that it was blocked up: stemmed by circumstances.

Nothing either of us did, or expected, hit the right note. I hadn't the proper cutlery; my hair needed cutting, perming; the curtains needed washing; the children were lovely but that was accidental rather than a matter of upbringing. She always brought her ballgown, although she knew it was beyond the dreams of avarice that we'd be going to such an outlandish event; she didn't notice the clean sheets on her bed; she played Rummy with the children and openly cheated; she said her lamb chop was overcooked. When I moved too swiftly, the tulle on her ballgown, hung from the top shelf of the bookcase, billowed out in reproach. Perhaps you can only really love your parents when you're little - dependent. Later on, it's adult versus adult.

Two days later we went to Brown's Hotel for coffee because she liked going to posh places. I couldn't really afford it, but I used the child allowance. If I'd have said I was short of money she'd have told me to come home. The day before she'd taken a bus to the Hilton in Park Lane, bought a newspaper, and insisted it be put in a carrier bag imprinted with the name of the hotel. When she got home she flashed the bag and boasted of how a gentleman caller had taken her out for tea.

We sat there in Brown's talking of this and that. Yes, the floral displays were very nice; I might have a book published soon, maybe, nothing definite; the editor was rumoured to be having a breakdown. Her bridge partner, Minnie, had thrown a wobbler at the Wine Tasting Night; my brother Ian was doing very well in his law practice in Montgomery. He was up for Mayor. Tommy Sutton was on the way out... stomach troubles; she blamed the cow, hidden outside the kitchen window. Did I remember Charlie White and that night the hay fork had gone up his nose?

I could tell by the look in her eyes that my hair was too lank. God knows, if we hadn't been related we'd have had nothing in common. Then, I said, out of nowhere, only not really, because I wanted to hurt her because she was hurting me: 'Mummy, what's it like to be old?'

I didn't know her age; it was a closely guarded secret. Now I think she would have appeared to be in her early sixties; in reality she was 71, had a dicky heart and a show-off personality, the latter trait, having no outlet, she shuffled on to me.

There was a man in Brown's, at the next table, who had something wrong with his leg. He kept bending down and scratching. I was watching him when my mother made a funny sound, and when I looked at her I saw her eyes had changed. She was really concentrating on me, as if I was really there. For a second she was not my mother but someone real, someone outside of me.

She said, 'Inside, I'm still 25', and her mouth worked as though she wanted to tell me something else, but no words came. Then her eyes filled up and a drop of water slid down her cheek and splashed on to that wretched fur coat; it hung a moment - I watched it - and soaked away. Two weeks later she died, alone, her teeth under the pillow and £3 in her handbag and her world.

I saw her dead in the Chapel of Rest in Formby, Lancashire. She was lying down in what looked like one half of a cardboard Easter egg with a paper frill all round. Her nail varnish was chipped, and when I kissed her she was so icy, so hard, that the tear I dropped on to her cheek bounced on to the floor.

I've been more fortunate than my mother. She was a product of the early part of the century, a time when women relied on men for financial support, for status, for a reason for their existence, in that they were the bearer of children and the keeper of the home. In my youth, if you weren't engaged before you were 20, there was obviously something wrong; you were destined for the shelf.

Somewhat dusty, I got married at 21, and two years later Colin Wilson wrote *The Outsider*, a book about how the artist must be free - my husband was a painter, on canvas rather than walls - and after reading it, though I expect there were other pressures, not to mention my immaturity, he walked out. Not financially - that's the difference between then and now. He gave me a house, all the furniture and £7.10 shillings a week maintenance, a provision so generous that the divorce courts thought there was some kind of collusion.

Once he'd gone, I started to write more diligently, though not with the idea that I'd make any money. In those days filthily lucre was an extraordinary, miraculous by-product of creative activity. The years passed, books got published, my daughters and son grew up, left home and had children of their own.

And now I'm old. One hundred years ago, 50 even, a woman of my age, 64, would have been considered ancient. I dye my hair, as did my mum, but the dyes have improved; have five false teeth - my Mum had not a single real tooth in her head beyond her 19th year; liver spots on the back of my hands; wrinkles; and a tendency to ask for a drop of brandy without

the slightest feeling of faintness. Two hours after getting up, I feel tired and am apt to doze off while watching television, but I can work, if writing can be called that, into the small hours of the night. I believe the brain is like a muscle, which atrophies if it isn't exercised. My mum may have thought she was 25 in her head, but that was because it was then that she stopped being curious, introspective. Her fault, bless her, was just that she let life get the boot in. Also, she'd run out of money.

In my case, the one drawback to growing old is the inescapable knowledge that it leads to the grave, although I have been anticipating such a trip for the last 30 years. As all my relatives kicked the bucket from cardiac arrest around the age of 70, I reckon I now have about six years to go, which is a pity because a dicky heart makes for a swift exit and I would much prefer to linger, pencilling last notes and murmuring farewells.

Best, before vanishing on to that darkling plain, it would be satisfying to recite those lines, however inaccurately, of the poet Matthew Arnold: *Ah, love, let us be true to one another... for the world that seems to lie before us like a land of dreams, hath neither truth, nor hope, nor certainty...*

THE INDEPENDENT CHRISTMAS APPEAL

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Please Note: From time to time, Age Concern England would like to allow other reputable organizations to write to its supporters. If you do not wish to be contacted by other such organizations, please tick this box.

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MEDIA

AGE CONCERN ACTION ON ELDER ABUSE

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Iraq's Blitz spirit

Sir: The hope that the bombing of Iraq will provoke the Iraqis to rise against their leader seems to me to be ludicrous.

My experience of being bombed during the Second World War (I was stationed in London during the Blitz and the attacks by V1 and V2 missiles) did not make me want to throw out Winston Churchill - quite the opposite. But it did give me a profound and increasing dislike of the perpetrators of the bombings, namely the Nazis.

Why should the Iraqis

be different?

Dr J AUDREY STEVENSON

Darsham, Suffolk

Sir: Misinformation from Iraqi academics and Andrea Needham (Letters, 19 December) illustrates our government's astonishing neglect in failing to ensure wide understanding of present realities in Iraq. Our media are equally at fault. Many journalists are well aware of what Saddam does, but prefer to dwell instead on the miseries of his people. Do those stories sell more easily?

It is not sanctions that keep Iraqs hungry and medically deprived, but Saddam. The sanctions have been carefully devised to provide all necessary food and medicines. Saddam has diverted as much as he can for his military projects. The UN Sanctions Committee has vetoed only chemicals and material falsely labelled as medical supplies but destined for military usage. Saddam has spent and still spends millions to smuggle in military material. He could easily provide all his people's needs, had they not already been available under sanctions.

Sanctions are neither illegal nor immoral; Saddam is, and his weaponry and use of it are both. He used it to wipe out the Marsh Arabs in southern Iraq and his opponents elsewhere.

Your Iraqi academics ask for a new strategy aimed at helping the Iraqi people to induce real change in Iraq. Can they suggest what is needed?

I A SHAPIRO

Birmingham

Sir: Would all the critics of the action taken against Saddam Hussein please come up with a better solution? I still see in my mind's eye the bloated corpses of women, children and men gassed because they were Kurds.

VIVIANE HASELUP

Burwash, East Sussex

Sir: We could consider doing what we have done with another equally odious type, in Indonesia. That is, we could supply him with ethical bombing aircraft and water cannon and in due course invite him to the annual sale of weapons by our MoD. Oh, and in case he is not able to pay for them, we could pass the bill to the British taxpayer.

HOWARD CHENEY

Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire.

Sir: What message of condolence do ministers plan to send to families of the bereaved in Iraq? Even suffering under the brutality of Saddam's inhuman regime is surely better than being killed or maimed for life by British or US bombs.

Let us not forget that this country and our weapons

industries armed the brutal

dictatorship of Saddam Hussein in the first place, as the Scott Inquiry laid bare. And not a single Tory minister found it necessary to resign over it.

Dr DAVID LOWRY

Stoneleigh, Surrey

Sir: Having just read about

Britain's latest policy towards Iraq, I suggest that Tony Blair

commission a new "tough and

tender" bomb. Such a bomb would

carry food and medicines as well

as the more traditional destructive

warhead. Both the humanitarian

and the military destinations

would be programmed into the

missile, which could then make a

detour around any local hospitals

Successful teaching depends on

teamwork both within a school and

between schools through the

sharing of good practice. We

consider therefore that any

attempt to reward teachers in

some schools more generously

than in others, or individual

teachers in the same school more

than their colleagues, would be

extremely divisive.

We urge the Government to

rethink these retrogressive

proposals and to take on board the

views of classroom teachers.

CAROL MACDOUGALL

and 25 others

Chiswick Community School

London W4

HOW WELL do you keep up with the news? Think you're in touch with what is happening? Think you could hold your own in the News Quiz or Have I Got News For You? Well, here's your chance to find out!

All you have to do is read the following half dozen news stories taken from the last seven days, and decide which are true and which have been made up specially for this quiz.

1. The case for General Pinochet's extradition to Spain has been made even more difficult now that it emerges that one of the Law Lords who voted in favour of extradition is a practising Christian. Apparently people who believe in Christianity and its creed are against torture and violence and all sorts

of evil, which may well result in this particular Lord being prejudiced against the General's case.

"Obviously," says a lawyer acting for General Pinochet, "anyone who has been involved with Christianity is bound to be prejudiced, and should declare their interest beforehand. As Pinochet is perhaps the most evil man left alive, then Christian bias in favour of goodness will prevent any justice being done."

"This is a farce from beginning

to end. I demand that the General

be tried by fellow torturers and

murderers. Only then will we get

a fair result."

2. At the time of going to press, Richard Branson's attempt to go round the world by balloon is still on, which means he will probably

be up in a balloon on Christmas Day. Wherever he lands at this

eventuality, as he has with him in

the balloon a full Father Christmas

costume into which he will change

prior to getting out with a bag of

toys. The gesture may well fail if

he lands in an Islamic country, but he says that Virgin flights

have always offered good in-flight

entertainment, and this one should

be no different.

3. Legal history is being made on

a major daily paper, where the

newspaper's lawyer is suing a

journalist who actually works for

the same paper. Apparently, one of

the regular columnists wrote a

piece attacking the quality of legal

advisers on newspapers, saying

that, in his experience, only the

very poorest and least efficient

lawyers ever sank so low as to work

for a newspaper. This ranked with

the paper's lawyer, who has now

sued the columnist for libel.

4. After the wind-up radio and the

wind-up torch, a firm in Nigeria is

now selling the world's first wind-up

computer for use by people who

have no access to mains electricity

or cannot afford batteries. It has

to be wound up every 10 minutes to



PANDORA

MOHAMED AL-FAYED likes to send his friends, particularly his journalist contacts, cuddly Harrods teddy bears. This Christmas season, some were dispatched to *The Guardian*, but rumours quickly began circulating around the paper's Farringdon Road offices to the effect that the editors expected hacks to return them to al-Fayed or donate them to charity. When Pandora rang to check out the truth of the matter, a newspaper spokesman said: "It has been suggested by our managing editor, Brian Whittaker, that the bears be donated to charity. A children's hospital perhaps. It hasn't been decided yet. We feel that the recipients of this should be children rather than *Guardian* employees. We certainly wouldn't send them back. That would be stupid and insulting."

KENNETH CLARKE, the former Tory chancellor and health secretary, has written an unusually glowing tribute in praise of Romola Christopherson, who is retiring after a distinguished career as the Department of Health's press officer.

"I think that I enjoyed every job that I had in government," Clarke writes to the Health Service's staff magazine, "but there were few things that were more fun than working with Romola Christopherson.

"We were probably the last ever secretary of state and press officer to smoke ourselves heavily through every crisis!"

Mr Clarke should be careful. A confession like that could put him – and Romola – into serious jeopardy should they ever need treatment at certain puritanical health authorities.

THE NORTHERN Ireland Assembly has opened a new gift shop, but before the recess began yesterday, the only merchandise available was confectionery – all embossed with the lovely fox flower, the assembly's logo. (Readers will recall that this logo was first revealed by Pandora on 15 October.) On offer have been toffee, something called "midget gems", humbugs and fudge. Pandora hopes the shop will sell out of the latter two products before the assembly embarks on its next session.



THE IN & OUT is moving out. Umbrellas furled tightly, pinstripes pressed sharply, members of the Naval & Military Club will pass in and out of its famous Piccadilly driveway for the final time tomorrow. The lease on the 135-year-old club's landmark Mayfair headquarters has expired, but happily the club has found a new home nearby at 4 St James's Square.

As the new clubhouse is considerably smaller, Bonhams will conduct an auction on 21 January back at 94 Piccadilly for what the organisation describes as "some of the club's and the members' finest antiques".

ON BROADWAY, celebrity couples are flocking to see *The Blue Room* in which, as the *NY Daily News* puts it: "Nicole Kidman and Iain Glen do things on stage that Mayor Giuliani has banned elsewhere around Times Square."

In recent days, Winona Ryder and Matt Damon, Ethan Hawke and Uma Thurman, and Michael Douglas and his new *NY Times* columnist girlfriend Maureen Dowd, have all been to see the stimulating drama. So far, however, no sign of Bill and Hillary.

HOW DO the Brits rank in the US gossip stakes, where celebrity-worship is now the national religion? In its list based on "mentions" in a wide range of NY and national gossip columns, the *New York Observer* provides an intriguing ranking of the 500 most media-popular people, both living and deceased.

The highest ranking Brit is, unsurprisingly, the late Diana, Princess of Wales, at No 12, while the next entrant, at No 66, is the actress Minnie Driver. In the top 100, she is followed by the journalist Tina

Brown (76), the actress Kate Winslet (90) and Mick Jagger and Uma Thurman (tied at 100). Thereafter come Elizabeth Hurley (111), Natasha Richardson and Anna Wintour (tied at 120), Kate Moss (124), Helena Bonham-Carter (152) and, finally, the Prime Minister, Tony Blair (180). Lest he feel disgruntled about this (President Clinton is, after all, ranked No 1), this placing puts Tony in a dead heat with the likes of the Rolling Stones, Judi Dench, Whoopi Goldberg and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Do the Iraqis like our gifts, Daddy?



TERENCE BLACKER

Cruise missiles are nice, Christmassy weapons; they sound like something from a holiday brochure

him, he said this horrid man is not just a danger to his own people but also to his neighbours. In fact, he wants nothing less than world domination."

"How would he do that, Daddy?" "We're not quite sure, but we do know that he's very ruthless. He's got these things called 'weapons of mass destruction'."

"Not like our cruise missiles?"

"Goodness me, no. Cruise missiles are nice, Christmassy weapons. They have been specially designed not to harm innocent civilians. They even sound nice, don't they? Like something from a holiday brochure."

"Because it would be really unfair if we ended up killing and maiming women and children and old men at Christmas time. I'm so glad we didn't do that."

"So am I. In fact, the only civilians who were killed were those who got in the way – and we really can't be blamed for that. Our bombs may be smart but they aren't geniuses. And, you know, just to make it all better for the people we were bombing, Tony Blair said that our quarrel wasn't with them personally but with their horrible leader. So, to show how sincere he was, he stopped destroying their country in time for their religious holiday. It was a sort of Christmas present from us to them."

"How would he do that, Daddy?" "We're not quite sure, but we do know that he's very ruthless. He's got these things called 'weapons of mass destruction'."

"Our teacher says that the Christmas message is not just about Jesus. It's about everyday life."

"And he's right, Son. Thanks to our caring government, we're en-

joying a people's Noel. Even the Christmas message is on-message."

"Except that these days we don't have any shepherds."

"Of course we do. And very important they are, too. Just because most Welsh hill farmers don't have a flock to watch by night on account of having been exploited by the supermarkets and abandoned by the Government, it doesn't mean that no one cares. Like so much of our country heritage – the skyark, the trilliar, the humble water vole – they will receive the traditional Westminster gift of warm words."

"Those will be the tidings of great joy."

"Of course. And a great and good angel for our time called Rupert Murdoch will deliver to the people the gifts of the Three Wise Men, Cook, Mandelson and Blair. And all the glittering stars – Liam Gallagher, Ben Elton, Stephen Fry, Dawn French – will sparkle and bring light to Downing Street."

"And will all the little children gather round, Daddy?"

"Almost all the little children. Those that have been very naughty have had to be locked up in our first

prison for children down in Kent. They'll be getting a yuletide cuff round the ear from the Group Four security guards who have been told to use 'basic and advanced control techniques' if the 10- and 11-year-olds don't get into an appropriate Christmas spirit."

"Giving to others and praying?"

"That, of course. But the on-message Christmas spirit involves bolstering the enterprise culture by spending as much money as possible, getting good and bloated on the day and then worrying a bit about those less fortunate than blah-blah-blah as we digest our Christmas dinners."

"So is it really true that all our leaders are getting holier and nicer and more caring?"

"Why yes, son. I do believe it is."

"That would explain why someone on the telly was saying that most of the people working for Western governments have spent much of the last year or so on their knees. There was a man called Davies on Clapham Common and, in the White House, there was a lady called..."

"Yes. Now where did we put those mince pies?"

A plague of corruption and cronyism is ruining my land



ANWAR IBRAHIM

Modern dictators are no different from the old colonial masters who carted away our riches

IT IS two past midnight as I begin to write this article in the privacy of my cell. In solitary confinement, the sound of silence is quite deafening, if not altogether eerie. But after 90 days of incarceration, you get used to it. A sentence from my book, *The Asian Renaissance*, comes back to me: "Power personalised, is power plundered from the people." When I wrote it, I had both [General] Suharto [who resigned as president of Indonesia in May] and Mahathir [Mohamed, Prime Minister of Malaysia] in mind, but I did not expect that statement to be so quickly and starkly illustrated by events.

In the civil society that we envisage, it is incumbent upon the elected leadership to inculcate certain fundamental principles and put them into practice. Chief among these would be the rule of law, the clear separation of powers among the various estates of government, freedom of belief, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

Citizens not only must be accorded these fundamental liberties; they must also be made aware of them. So basic education must do more than merely equip students with marketable skills. It must nurture young people so they may become adequate participants in a democracy.

A free press plays a fundamental role. All the traditional cultures teach us that truth will eventually destroy falsehood. But this can happen only in an environment where debate is robust, where people are not only allowed but encouraged to speak without fear. A controlled press is anathema to this ideal.

In this regard, Malaysia is still a long way from being a civil society. The people's constitutional rights are often violated by the executive. Valiant efforts by non-governmental organisations and other civic groups to redress the problems are frus-

tated by a leadership intolerant of criticism. As often happens under despotic and dictatorial regimes, Mahathir's government tries to deflect attention from the real issues by creating foreign bogeys and portraying its critics as traitors. Patriotism is given a new meaning, instead of willingness to sacrifice for love of country, it is equated with unquestioning loyalty to the ruling élite.

The true patriot is one who fights to unchain his people from the shackles of colonial-style practices in the form of suppressive laws, the denial of basic human rights or even the squandering of public funds. Modern dictators, when they are finally thrown out of office, are often found to have accumulated enormous... wealth. They are no different from the old colonial masters caring away riches.

In Malaysia, we do have – though only in theory – clear separation of powers between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. Yet, for the greater part of the past 17 years, the organs of government have been mere puppets, with Mahathir

pulling all the strings. Legislators, regardless of their party affiliation, should be committed to upholding the people's constitutional rights and freedoms. Might is not always right. The actions of key executive organs of government, such as the police and the office of the attorney-general, ought to be under constant parliamentary scrutiny.

There cannot be an Asian renaissance without social and economic justice. Economic progress has meaning only when the majority of the people enjoy its fruits. Under Mahathir's grandiose economic programme, important issues such as hard-core poverty, the safety of working conditions and the availability of basic housing are dealt with only at the periphery.

Naturally, we will not see social and economic justice until we see the end of cronyism and nepotism. In Malaysia a select and selfish few have appropriated the lion's share of the wealth generated by economic development. What was meant to be affirmative action has turned into a system of corruption and favouritism. Projects and contracts are won on the basis of whom you know, not what you know. The handful of people who keep getting the largess continue to get richer at the expense of others. Cronyism breeds nepotism and corruption. It's a vicious circle.

Affirmative action... is, in fact, essential in redressing economic imbalances that were the result of decades of social mismanagement. But, in practice, the selfish exploitation of this intrinsically noble effort at social engineering has been developed into a fine art. It is used to further the interests of a handful of *bumiputra*, or indigenous Malay cronies, acting for themselves and, sometimes, for non-*bumiputra* cronies, all at the expense of the majority.

For Malaysia to progress into a



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad

civil society, fundamental social, political and economic reform is a *sine qua non*. All over South-east Asia we see the political landscape changing – with an awareness of the need for democracy and civil society growing, especially among the young.

The reform movement which I launched on 12 September seeks to establish justice for all and preserve the institutions and processes of law from graft and abuse of power. It advocates fairness in economic distribution and seeks to eradicate graft and manipulation of the economy. The movement cuts across ethnic, cultural and religious divides.

While we seek to reinforce a dynamic Malaysian cultural identity, we must constantly guard against jingoistic tendencies and encourage openness to the world, that is based on the principles of truth and justice.

I am blessed to have known so many good people all over the world.

Their outpouring of sympathy, prayer and encouragement is a source of great comfort, not unlike the cool morning breeze now blowing through my small window.

In a few minutes, it will be time for the dawn prayer. As the plaintive sound of the *azan*, the call to prayer, pierces through the silence, I see the breaking of dawn where "yon grey times that fret the clouds are messengers of day", and I tell myself that God willing, a new day will soon dawn for Malaysia.

The author, the former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, is awaiting trial on charges of immorality. ©1998, Newsweek Inc

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I WAS involved in the Rotterdam 2045 project, a project that included the opportunity to develop concrete design proposals for the city in the next millennium. These designs were used to open the discussion on the character of the city as a whole. Design as a political tool.

The crisis of the makeable society is being discussed everywhere. In the meantime, we carry on creating, making, building and planning. The end of the makeability sometimes seems to be only a defeatist thought, not real. Nevertheless, this question is very real in Rotterdam.

If there is one place where, after the war, a lot has been visibly achieved, where "producing an achievement" was considered the greatest value, then it is Rotterdam. Only those who, in the late 1940s, after having left the Central Station, stood on the edge of the plain of Rotterdam, can understand what has been achieved here.

Nowhere else was work done so purposefully and with such concrete goals. Nowhere else was construction so much

PODUM

OLE BOUMAN

From a speech by the editor of the Dutch architecture magazine 'Archis' at the Riba conference 'Cities in the Millennium'

connected with belief in the future. And nowhere else did you know so precisely what your future was going to be.

At present, there is no other place where the problem of the future is as tangible as in Rotterdam. This is an abstract and philosophical problem. The project of turning nothing into something has been more or less completed. The Kop van Zuid, one could say, is the last great effort that has its origins in the Thought of Reconstruction.

This is a precious cliché: the Rotterdammer rolled up his sleeves and put his shoulders to the wheel. But we find ourselves at a turning-point with possibly far-reaching psychological consequences. How can you preserve the charm of the morale from the time of the reconstruction now the city has been rebuilt, when there is no clear goal, no more consensus on the strategy, no ethical framework in which big groups can find each other?

The doubtful luxury of the

real Rotterdammer? Luckily, some will say, there is still the port; this symbol of growth, regeneration and international status. The spirit of Rotterdam will, no matter how, survive in the port, if only in the constantly increasing transhipment. As long as the port is growing,

From Johnson to Clinton



GODFREY HODGSON

Never has the United States' political system been more hell-bent on self-destruction

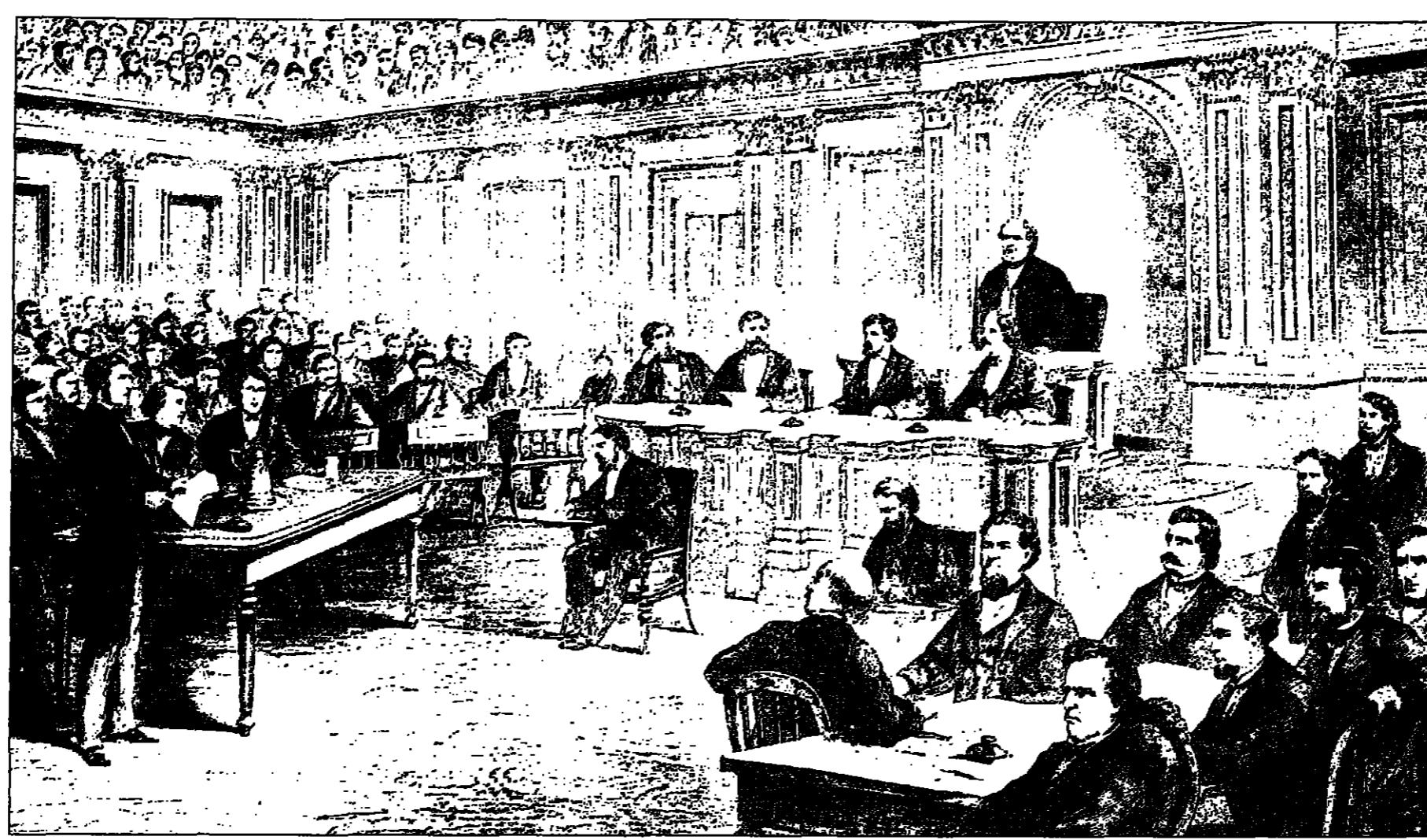
ONLY A fool would try to predict the outcome of President Clinton's trial by the Senate, which will start in the New Year. All that can sensibly be said is that, if time and again the President has made a comeback, time and again his relentless Republican pursuers have gone after him and prevented him escaping into the long grass.

Whatever happens, the President's impeachment is a crisis for American government and society of the first magnitude. It is both dramatic evidence of how bitter American politics has become and an ominous indication of how divisions are likely to deepen. Historically, the civil rights legislation of the Sixties destroyed the Democratic coalition of northern liberals and southern conservatives, leaving the two sides ideologically divided as never before.

This is not, as one London tabloid called it, a "sex trial". It is a grave constitutional crisis and it will turn not on the American public's attitude to sexual morality but on the Senate's judgment about whether the President deserved himself and abused his oath of office.

When the Senate sits on the impeachment resolutions, its presiding officer will be the Chief Justice, William Rehnquist. That is not good news for President Clinton, for Rehnquist is an ultra-conservative, originally a supporter of Senator Barry Goldwater, who ran unsuccessfully for the White House as a conservative in 1964, and a nominee and supporter of Richard Nixon, who resigned rather than face impeachment in 1974.

As it happens, the Chief Justice published in 1992 a scholarly study of the impeachment process and, in particular, of the impeachment trials of Chief Justice Samuel Chase in 1805 and President Andrew Johnson in 1868. In his book Rehnquist makes some points about the Nixon case that have ironic resonances today. He points out that, in 1974, members of the House of Representatives judiciary committee (the majority of course then Democrats) rejected the view advanced today by some Democrats in Clinton's defense that the "high crimes and misdemeanours" for which, according to the constitution, a pres-



The impeachment hearings of President Andrew Johnson in the Senate Chambers in 1868

ident can be removed must be indictable offences under criminal law.

But he makes a very interesting point about the Chase and Johnson impeachments. In each case, Rehnquist points out, impeachment followed a period when a victorious party, having at last achieved power in Congress, found itself frustrated by a chief justice or a president. In 1805 it was the Jefferson Republicans (ancestors of today's Democrats), who worked off their frustration on the Federalist Chase.

In 1868 it was the radical Republicans who, having won the Civil War and emancipated the slaves, wanted to push through a radical "Reconstruction" of the defeated southern states and found themselves frustrated by the conservative (and southern) Johnson. The immediate issue was Johnson's sacking of his Secretary of War: a response to the radical Republicans' Tenure of Office Act; the underlying issue was the Republicans' wish to give the vote to the newly freed blacks in the South.

Johnson survived, by a single vote, in the most melodramatic circumstances imaginable. The decisive vote came from a dying senator carried into the chamber on a couch. In reality, Johnson survived because half a dozen moderate Republicans, troubled by the reckless enthusiasm of Thaddeus Stevens, Ben Butler and the

other radicals, voted for acquittal. The key to what is happening in Washington now is again the rage and frustration felt by the activist conservative Republicans because they think they are being robbed of the fruits of their victory. They thought there had been a Reagan Revolution, with the liberals confounded and conservatives in the saddle for the next generation at least. Then they had to put up with George Bush, just the kind of moderate Republican they dislike more even than liberals.

In 1994 they offered their "Contract with America" and won a smashing victory under Newt Gingrich, capturing both houses of Congress for the first time for two generations - only to see Bill Clinton pop up again in 1996. They managed to get an arch conservative, Kenneth Starr, appointed as special prosecutor to investigate first the Clintons' financial dealings in Arkansas, and then anything that might be thrown at them. But, after spending \$40m, Starr came up with nothing.

Clinton won the 1996 election. Imagine the congressional Republicans' thrill when they learned that their enemy had not only been recklessly meeting a young intern for sexual trysts in the White House but had been foolish enough to lie on oath, and on television, about it. Clinton repeated his lie and was

caught out, in part thanks to unscrupulous prosecutorial manoeuvres by Starr and his bloodhounds. Once again the radical Republicans thought they had got their man, and once again, in the mid-term elections last month, he slipped away.

The strain has been telling on the Republicans. Newt Gingrich survived a clumsy, abortive coup last July, only to be forced to resign after the party's poor performance in November. Now his successor, Robert Livingston, has resigned after admitting that he, too, had strayed from the marriage bed. To lose two speakers in a month argues a certain carelessness, or a certain desperation. But they closed ranks, voted the straight party line and pushed through impeachment.

What happens now? There are 55 Republicans in the Senate and only 45 Democrats. But conviction on an impeachment requires a two-thirds vote. On the face of it, that would seem to mean that the Republicans are unlikely to get the 67 votes they need, apart from anything else. They cannot be sure of every last Republican senator's vote.

Nothing that has happened since the Lewinsky scandal first broke, however, encourages confident linear prediction. The Senate trial will be the focus of the most intense media feeding frenzy that is imaginable. The Republicans are desperate not to see their prey escape

yet again. The Democrats, however, are not so united.

Public support for President Clinton remains at a high level, and has even risen since he was impeached. But conservative Republicans are not as interested in public opinion as they are in the wishes of their ideologically passionate activists and financial backers.

There has been much talk in Washington of deals, and plea-bargaining comes naturally to American lawyers, which is what many members of the Senate are. In theory, the Senate can do what it likes. It can decide, by a simple majority vote, not to proceed with the trial. It can decide whether or not to hear witnesses and if so whether to hear them in public or in camera.

The Senate could certainly vote to censure the President, with or without a fine, perhaps requiring him to sign his own condemnation. Censure, however, is what the President's defenders want, and for that reason alone it would feel like yet another humiliating frustration for his pursuers.

My own hunch is that the debate in the Senate will go the whole way, and the final vote will not come before extraordinary dramas and manoeuvres. There are several influential Democratic senators who are outraged by the President's behaviour. They feel he has let them, their party and the country

down. Some or all of them might come out for impeachment. Or, at the last minute, they might orchestrate a movement for some compromise that could not be dismissed as a slap on the wrist - though it is not easy to imagine what that could be.

The next three months will see unprecedented passions and unanticipated events. It will all be great fun. It will also be bad news for the United States and therefore for the rest of us. Both the presidency and the Congress will emerge from the crisis, whatever happens, with their reputations damaged, and so in a sense will the American system.

Never has the US exerted more influence, even hegemony, than now; never has its domestic political system been more hell-bent on self-destruction. America is a strong society, and its institutions are tougher than they sometimes look. It remains to be seen how they will cope with the new media, for whom nothing is sacred, and with the new politics, by which angry, ideologically conservative Republicans, slug it out with angry, ideologically liberal Democrats, with the rules even rougher than they were for fighting in the old Arkansas river ports, where everything was allowed but for biting, gouging and bollocking.

Hamish McRae's weekly column will appear tomorrow

RIGHT OF REPLY

DR NICHOLAS TATE



The chief executive of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority replies to recent criticisms of the National Curriculum tests

IN THE early 1990s there were valid criticisms of the national tests. They focused on the reliability of the tests, the information they provided, and the possibility of cheating. However, problems in all these areas have been successfully tackled and criticisms along these lines are now outdated.

Each question in the tests is now rigorously pre-tested to pitch it at the correct level. So, too, are the papers, which are anchored to the previous year's standard. Radical changes to the tests are avoided, and any necessary changes are carefully piloted before introduction. The tests are now among the most carefully developed school exams in the world.

The tests provide far more detailed information than simply a test mark. All papers are sent back to the schools after marking, so that teachers can see exactly where mistakes were made. The QCA analyses the completed papers, and publishes a report setting out strengths and weaknesses of performance.

As for cheating, schools are not allowed to open test paper packs until an hour before the test starts. During the test, random schools received an unscheduled visit to check administration arrangements; in only a few cases was there evidence of malpractice.

The tests are making a major contribution to improving the quality of education. They may not measure everything that is worth learning, but they are a measure of progress in the core curriculum elements. They provide diagnostic information; they hold schools accountable; they enable us to set targets. One of the main levers in the crusade to raise levels of achievement, they are here to stay.

Animal rights: time to talk turkey

THIS IS the time of year when we are reminded that dogs aren't for Christians, they are for life; to which I recall Iacovic Alexei Sayle responding: "We usually have a turkey round our place, actually." After the hunger strike by the campaigner, Barry Horne, and huge rows over vivisection and "animal rights", it is interesting to find in Stephen Budiansky a writer who emphatically will not stick up for the fluffy bunnies - at least, not if you want to suggest to him that they have thoughts, memories and intelligence that resemble ours.

In the 19th century, the Prussian horse "Clever Hans", it was claimed, was able to do maths by tapping the answer to multiple-choice questions with a hoof. Its reward was a sugar lump. However, investigators found



TUESDAY BOOK

IF A LION COULD TALK: HOW ANIMALS THINK
BY STEPHEN BUDIANSKY, WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON. £20

that if the people watching didn't know the answer to the question, Hans got it wrong. The smart horse was reacting to tiny changes in the observers' reactions as it reached the correct answer. So was Hans just a stupid horse? One could argue that it was really very clever to spot a piece of body language that none of the humans had noticed.

Budiansky, shortlisted twice for the Rhone-Poulenc science-writing

prizes, wants to examine what animals experience in their "consciousness" and what intelligence means. The book's title is taken from Wittgenstein, who said: "If a lion could talk, we would not understand him." Budiansky argues that if a lion could talk, we could understand him fine - but its "mind would no longer be a lion's mind".

Everyone - even scientists - does want animals to "talk". Rather than observing horses as herd animals well adapted to open grasslands, we want them to play the mathematical games we would demand from children. Rather than trying to see what makes chimpanzees unique, we want to teach some of them American sign language so we can feel gratified at how many words and simple sentences they can produce.

Even when describing such tests, language gets in the way. "The monkey went to the food" contains an undercurrent of intentionality that may be lacking in the animal. Even amoebae can direct themselves towards food sources. At what level of the evolutionary ladder should we say that simple response ends and intention begins?

The truth is that every animal has been equipped by ultimate school of hard knocks, evolution, to deal as best it can with its environment - though all have ideal niches, determined by selection. Being among a bunch of twitching 19th century humans who offer sugar lumps for picking up subtle inflections of movement is not a horse's ideal spot, but it will do its best. But it is not doing, and



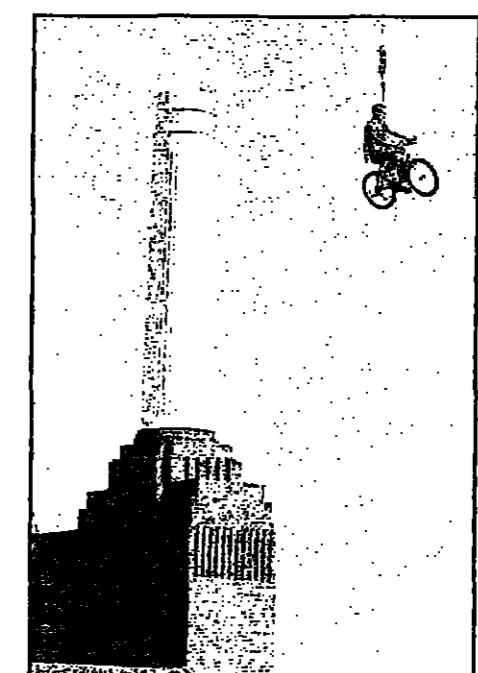
Learning sign language is not what makes chimpanzees unique Bill Rowntree

never will do, mathematics. Budiansky manages the neat trick of drumming this into the reader's head without ever seeming to be preaching.

However, he also manages an equally valuable task. Although behavioural scientists are always taught about Clever Hans in their first seminar, the syllogism of "this is the answer, so that is the process by which the animal reached it" persists in modern research. Work with apes, chimpanzees, rats, mice, birds and worms all comes under sceptical inspection. Little passes the test. Budiansky wields Occam's razor like Sweeney Todd, slashing through sloppy thinking about what animals might be "capable" of and bringing high-flying results (such as the chimp that appears able to add numbers for a food reward) crashing to earth.

One could argue that scientists, too, are driven by similar logic, in that the simplest way to get your name on a big scientific paper with attendant rise in status is to achieve a "conscious-like" response from an animal. But what sets the scientist apart is that paper. Humans stand on the other side

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TUESDAY POEM

INDIAN PRINCESS PICKS LOVER OUT FROM GODS

BY RUTH PADEL

Thank God we cast
A spot of shadow in our lives,
Said the *Mahabharata* bride,
Facing five versions of her groom -

Your man himself plus four male gods,
Four dead-spirit images, self-xeroxed in shape -
Who recognised that heartbeat,
The man she'd have to part with.

By the shadow at his heel. Gods don't go round
Casting shadow. Things we do and feel

(As a leader in *The Independent*
Put it afterwards) are incomplete.

Our poems until 8 January come from volumes shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize, to be announced on 11 January. Ruth Padel's *Rembrandt Would Have Loved You* is published by Chatto (£7.99)

CHARLES ARTHUR

Professor Nigel Holder

NIGEL HOLDER had recently become head of the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology at University College London, and was enjoying enormous success, when he died suddenly and left his family, friends and colleagues devastated.

He had started life as a botanist, but after graduating from King's College London in 1974, chose to do a PhD with me on limb development, focusing on the development of joints and bone formation, at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School.

He made the transition with great ease and was awarded a Nato Postdoctoral Fellowship to work on limb regeneration at the University of California at Irvine. There he rapidly made significant contributions to the mechanisms by which the regeneration of the newt's limb is controlled.

It was at King's that his imaginative organisational skills were put to particularly good effect. By persuading committee after committee he managed to set up a Developmental Biology Research Centre in Drury Lane.

The unit was a novel idea and brought together in an interdisciplinary environment a variety of different groups each with their own techniques; so there were those with a more classical approach to how the embryo develops – who thought mainly in terms of cells and how they signalled to each other and how they responded – interacting with those whose natural mode of thought was in terms of molecules. The centre was, and is, a great success.

Holder's own interests now moved towards analysing development using the techniques of genetics. He was one of the first in this country to begin to use the zebrafish as a model for such studies and he soon established himself as a leader of a major group studying how mutations could affect the development of the zebrafish embryo.

His reasons for choosing the zebrafish were not only because it had



He studied the zebrafish, because it had a short breeding cycle, but also because the embryo is transparent and so every cell can be followed under the microscope

a short breeding cycle and so made genetics possible, but also because the embryo is transparent and so the behaviour of every cell in the embryo can be followed under the microscope.

Holder was initially particularly interested in how the brain of the early embryo is patterned. He became increasingly convinced that a class of molecules known as ephrins play a vital role in signalling between cells during the development of the nervous system. More recently he discovered that they play a key role in the process whereby the embryo becomes segmented into blocks of tissue along its head to tail axis – blocks that later give rise to the vertebrae and body muscles.

Just 15 months ago Holder was appointed to his current position as head of department at UCL. This was a major commitment as it is a

very large and successful department. Holder had been diagnosed several years earlier as having vasculitis, an auto-immune disease affecting the blood vessels. At times the effects of the illness were severe but he never complained and stoically waited for each episode to pass.

There was every evidence that his doctors had found ways of controlling it, and he threw himself with enthusiasm into his new role. He built beautiful new aquaria for his fish and won support from many funding agencies to establish a large group of researchers.

He ran the department with a touch that gained him the affection and confidence of his colleagues. It also both amused and pleased him and me that he was now the boss of his former supervisor. Holder had friends in the scientific community throughout the world; he had a great talent for friendship. He loved paintings and music and had become an enthusiastic and moderately competent golfer.

His research was going very well and he had just been awarded a new grant for half a million pounds for special equipment. He had just completed, with a German colleague, a very important review of the role of ephrins in development. He was also planning a major reconstruction of part of the building in order to establish a new Centre for Post-Genomic Research.

Holder realised that more and more, as the genome – the DNA – of humans and other organisms was worked out there would be the need to find out what all those genes were actually doing. His commitment to both science and the department was total.

But so too was his commitment to his family. He was particularly proud of his six-year-old son Daniel's poem that he had composed all on his own on a computer; he had brought Michael, his nine-day-old son, into the department on the very day that he died.

LEWIS WOLPERT

Nigel Henry Keith Holder, developmental biologist: born London 2 July 1953; Lecturer in Anatomy, King's College London 1979-84; Reader 1984-93; Professor 1993-97; Head of Anatomy, University College London 1997-98; married 1990 Alison Fox (two sons); died London 11 December 1998.

ELVIS PRESLEY was so innovative and so distinctive that there have been impersonators from the moment he started making hit records in 1956. Ray Charles scored hits in the early 1960s as a quasi-Elvis, and numerous singers, including Cliff Richard and Billy Fury, copied his stage actions.

However, it was Elvis's triumphant return to concert performances in the late Sixties wearing bejewelled jump suits, and his subsequent death in 1977, that caused promoters everywhere to send in the clones. The real thing was no more, and many Elvis impersonators made a good living, and still do, by acting out their fantasies on stage. Orion was the first to exploit Elvis's death and, notoriously, wanted to convince listeners that Elvis had faded his own death and was back performing. He wore a mask so the masquerade was not too transparent. His record releases were on Sun, the very label on which Elvis had started.

In reality, Orion was the club singer Jimmy Ellis, who was born in



Gatsonides after winning the Mobil Economy Run in a Citroen ID19 – he scored a hat-trick between 1964 and 1968

Maurice Gatsonides

IT IS taken for granted now that leading rally drivers are full-time professionals who make a handsome living from the sport. This was not the case between the wars and in the years just after the First World War, when most rally drivers were keen amateurs who drove for the fun of it and were happy if a manufacturer provided a car for them and covered their expenses. Maurice Gatsonides deserves the credit for breaking the mould as he was probably the first full-time professional.

He was born in 1911 in Gombong, Java – in what was then the Dutch East Indies – where his diplomat father was posted. His parents then returned to Holland where he was educated. He joined KLM and qualified as a commercial pilot but left in 1935 to open a motor business near Haarlem.

An enthusiasm for motor sport led him to start rally driving. His first major event was the 1936 Monte Carlo Rally in which he drove a Humber Minx saloon, so beginning a long association with British cars. His first important success was in the 1938 Liège-Rome-Liège rally driving a Riley Kestrel; he finished fourth. This event was run in late August and there were fears that the war would start before the competitors had completed the course.

During the Second World War, Gatsonides built up a profitable business making charcoal gas generators which kept cars and commercial vehicles running in occupied Holland where there was

no petrol. This was a useful cover for his work in the Dutch resistance, helping escaped prisoners of war.

When the war ended he resumed his motor trading activities and also tried to become a car manufacturer at his garage at Heemsteede. He built a car using a Ford V-8 engine and other Ford parts which was called the Gato or Gato. This had starting aerodynamics with a cluster of lights on the front and covered occupants with a perspex canopy. The Gato did not prosper, as it was under-capitalised and Ford components were hard to get.

Gatsonides now had agencies for Studebakers and the British Hillman and Humber. He took a Studebaker on his first major post-war rally, the 1947 Alpine Trial, and when the Monte Carlo Rally was revived in 1949, he won an award with a Hillman. The following year he was second overall with a Humber Super Snipe, a most unlikely rally car.

While the Monte had the glamour and the publicity, to the real rallyist success in the Alpine was the true criterion of a leading driver. The Alpine ran for a week in high summer over the toughest Alpine passes; the aim was to win an Alpine Cup for finishing without losing any marks. In 1951, Gatsonides was offered a works Jaguar XK 120 for the Alpine and Bill Mackenzie, the motoring correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, went with him as navigator and co-driver. The Jaguar broke down on the last day with a water leak when a cup was in sight; afterwards Mackenzie said he would

never go with Gatsonides again, it was too frightening.

In the 1952 Alpine he again used an XK 120 and this time secured a cup. His great win though, which secured him a permanent place in rallying history, was the 1953 Monte when he drove a Ford Zephyr; afterwards he admitted that he had taken the easier route over the Massif Central, but despite this had won the Alpine and his winning margin was only three seconds.

The Monte always had a strong element of chance and in 1954 Gatsonides was paired with another former winner, Marcel Béquet in a works DB 2/4 Aston Martin. They had a huge lead but lost it when Béquet missed a secret control and they fell to seventh place.

Gatsonides also tried his hand at motor racing, but he was a steady long-distance driver rather than a wheel-to-wheel racer, so in his four appearances in the Le Mans 24-hour race he treated it more as a fast rally than a race; he was placed 12th with an Austin-Healey in 1953 and 11th with a Frazer Nash in 1954. He also drove a Triumph TR2 in the 1954 Mille Miglia, the legendary Italian open road race. He was nominated as a co-driver of a Maserati XK 120 in the 1952 Dutch Grand Prix but the car fell out so he never had the chance to match his abilities against the grand-prix drivers of the day.

In 1954 Gatsonides switched his rallying allegiance to Triumph and stayed with the British firm for the next four years, gaining Alpine Cups in 1954 and 1956 and many minor places. During this time, he also had successful outings with Porsche and DKW.

By the end of the 1950s a new and younger generation of rally drivers had emerged, so he gracefully moved away from the front-line events but still kept active driving Citroen ID19s in the Mobil Economy Runs, rallies which required rapidity with a light throttle foot. He won the Mobil event in 1958, and scored a hat-trick between 1964 and 1966.

Gatsonides retired as an active competition driver in the mid-1960s but showed his talent in a new and very profitable field. He had considerable skill as an electrical and electronic engineer and developed two devices which have had a great impact on British motorists.

First he invented the familiar timing device for catching speeding drivers, using two parallel rubber tubes set a short distance apart which operate pressure switches as vehicles cross them. His second device was the Gato flash camera which is now a familiar feature on road junctions throughout Britain, apprehending drivers who jump traffic lights.

Maurice Gatsonides was a man of great charm who had many friends in Britain; his son is now managing director of the Gato electronic companies.

DAVID VENABLES

Maurice Gatsonides, rally driver: born Gombong, Java 14 February 1911; married 1941 (one son and one daughter deceased); died 29 November 1998.



Orion's name came from the title of a 1979 book about Elvis

Orrville, Alabama, in 1945. Ellis recorded an album under his own name, *Sometimes Words Just Get In The Way*, for a small label in 1964. His fans remarked how closely he spoke and sang like Elvis. He maintained that it was coincidence.

In 1969 the Nashville entrepreneur Shelby Singleton acquired the back catalogue of Sun Records, though Elvis's tracks belonged to RCA. At first, Singleton marketed well-packaged reissues, but in 1972 he had Ellis record the titles on Elvis's first Sun single, "That's All Right (Mama)" and "Blue Moon of Kentucky". They were released with a "?" for the artist, and it was noted that they were alternative takes from Elvis's first recording session in 1954. However, Singleton had used an electric bass which had not even been invented at the time.

Undeterred, Singleton revived his hoax with Elvis's early death in 1977. The mysterious "?" released a yuletide single, "Don't Cry For Christmas," and Ellis's voice was added to familiar Sun tracks by Jerry

Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Charlie Rich. "Save The Last Dance For Me" by Jerry Lee Lewis and *Friend* was issued as a single in 1978.

The sleeve carried an endorsement from the song's composer, Doc Pomus, stating that he was sure it was Elvis. A voice test on the television programme *Good Morning America* confirmed that the mystery voice was indeed Elvis. Even the hard-bitten *New Musical Express* was fooled: Roy Carr wrote, "Ireck on this track is genuine and as such it's quite magnificent – a timely reminder of when recording sessions used to be fun." By today's standards, Ellis was not even a particularly good Elvis soundalike. Whilst this was going on, Ellis released a tribute single under his own name, "I'm Not Trying To Be Like Elvis", and an album, *By Request – Ellis Sings Elvis*.

Also in 1978, the author Gail Brewer-Giorgio published a novel, *Orion*, which told of an Elvis-style rock star who faked his own death. (The name was derived from Elvis's middle name, Aaron.) This struck a chord with Shelby Singleton and so Jimmy Ellis became Orion, whose debut album, *Reborn*, was released by Sun on gold vinyl in 1979. The cover showed the masked singer emerging from a coffin.

Just as children believe in Santa Claus, some fans wanted to believe that Orion was Elvis. Orion took his persona so seriously that he even wore his mask for rehearsals. Quite often he appeared on shows with Elvis Presley's former vocal backing group, the Jordanaires.

The ersatz Elvis had several singles in the US country charts, including "Am I That Easy To Forget" (1980) and US versions of the British hits "Rockabilly Rebel" (originally by Matchbox) and "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" (Queen), both 1981. With commendable productivity, he recorded several albums for Sun, *Sunrise* (1979), *Rockabilly* (1980), *Country* (1980), *Fresh* (1981), *Glory* (1981) and *Feelings* (1981). He built up a considerable live following, then in 1983 he ripped off his mask

before a capacity audience and vowed never to wear it again.

The full-faced Jimmy Ellis was nowhere near as popular and so in 1987 Ellis returned to the mask and his Orion persona. He released an album, *New Beginnings*, in 1987 and said at the time, "I don't mind being compared to Elvis, but I always wanted my own identity as an artist."

Orion found his comeback hard because, by then, Elvis impersonators had become commonplace: nowadays, there are Asian, Chinese and even female Elvises. Ellis and his girlfriend, Elaine Thompson, also ran a general store in Selma, Alabama. They were there when an armed robbery took place and both lost their lives. Ellis's last performance as the pseudo-Elvis had been in Nashville in a week earlier.

SPENCER LEIGH

Jimmy Hodges Ellis (Orion), singer: born Orrville, Alabama 26 February 1945; one son; died Selma, Alabama 12 December 1998.

William Denson

Denson was a 32-year old graduate of the West Point army academy and Harvard Law School when he was sent to the Judge Advocate's Office in Europe in 1945, and assigned as chief prosecutor for the trials which were soon to start at Dachau covering crimes committed at Buchenwald, Matthausen, Flossenbürg and Dachau itself. Technically the four were "mere" concentration camps, rather than Vernichtungslager or extermination camps, such as Auschwitz or Treblinka. But the wickedness committed there were scarcely less egregious.

Among those prosecuted by Denson was August Eigruber, a Nazi

gauleiter in upper Austria whom he later described as "one of the most arrogant defendants I have ever encountered". Even from the scaffold, as the noose went around his neck, Eigruber shouted "Heil Hitler". The most famous defendant with whom he dealt however was Ilse Koch, dubbed the "Beast of Buchenwald" for her habit of personally selecting prisoners for sadistic beatings and torture which often killed them and accused of having lampshades and photograph albums made of tattooed human skin.

Because she was pregnant when she went for trial, the 40-year-old Koch was sentenced to life imprisonment rather than death for her crimes against non-Germans. To Denson's declared disgust, her term was reduced in 1947 to only four years by General Lucius Clay, then the senior US official in occupied Germany. However she was resentenced to life by a German court for crimes against German citizens, and eventually committed suicide in 1967.

In a 1990 interview, Denson recalled how at first, although hardened to the horrors of war, he could not believe what he was hearing from camp survivors: "I thought here were some people who had been mistreated in the camps and were seeking revenge, and that they were real

ly doing a job drawing on fantasy rather than reality. But when I questioned witnesses, and they recounted substantially the same things, then I knew the events had occurred, because these people did not have a chance to get together and fabricate their stories."

Those who were in the dock struck him as having come from fairly normal backgrounds but, Denson said, exposure to violence merely generated more violence; experience of atrocity merely raised the threshold of future atrocity. Of the 177 people he prosecuted, only four were acquitted, and 132 were sentenced to death. It was the highwater mark for war crimes trials in Europe. A dozen more tribunals



War crimes prosecutor
William Denson, lawyer: born Birmingham, Alabama 1913; married 1950 Constance von Francken-Sierstorpff (one son, two daughters); died Lawrence, New York 13 December 1998.

NUREMBERG IS the universal shorthand for the trials of Nazi war criminals held after the Second World War. In fact, however, it was the trials in which William Denson served which dealt with the truly horrendous cases. They involved the lesser-ranking officials, bureaucrats and military officers who actually carried out the bestial policies mapped out by Hitler and his closest henchmen. Indeed, in terms of death sentences sought and carried out, Denson was the most successful of all US war crimes prosecutors. Of the 177 Nazis who appeared before him, 132 were sentenced to death and 97 went to the gallows.

Alfred Roth

THE SWISS

architect, artist and writer Alfred Roth was one of the last of the original generation of international modern architects closely associated with the Functionalist cause.

In 1927, he spent some time in Le Corbusier's atelier in Paris. There he worked on and wrote about the Le Corbusier villa and apartment blocks built that year for the World Cup Exhibition on the Weissenhof, Stuttgart. The following year he went to Gothenburg in Sweden, where he designed a series of low-cost apartments in the modern style.

He commenced his own architectural practice in 1931 in Zurich, where four years later he collaborated with Marcel Breuer, the former Bauhaus master, and his cousin Emil Roth (they practised as Alfred and Emil Roth) on the renowned Doldertal apartment blocks in Zurich, which were the epitome of the cubic Functionalist style: plain, flat-roofed, white buildings. He built his own house there in 1960, continuing the same tradition.

In the post-war period Roth worked closely with the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto whose work he had introduced to the Swiss public in an exhibition in Zurich in 1941. They collaborated on many projects, a fact acknowledged in the exhibition - commemorating the centenary of Aalto's birth - now showing at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, where Roth's archives are held.

His personal archive is extensive, containing material of a lifetime's practice as an architect, as well as the records of the years he served as editor of the Swiss-based architectural magazine *Werk* (1943-56). The polemic he waged in *Werk* underlined his own interest in regional architecture and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, someone he met, promoted and exhibited in Zurich.

Roth was concerned with the integration of the arts. He saw them best unified under the banner of a "Modern" architecture: "All my architectural endeavours and all my thinking are firmly based on the principles of... functional architecture," he wrote in 1960, although he warned that the most important aspect of Functionalism was its demand for "beauty, harmony, nobility, and inventiveness".

He was also a minor painter in his own right, following closely the De Stijl work of Max Bill and the Swiss/German Konkrete artists from the mid-twenties whose Constructivist paintings and three-dimensional artefacts introduced formal grids, patterns, primary colours and geometrical shapes. In this



Roth's buildings epitomised the Functionalist style René Burri/Book Art Architecture Picture Library

kind of art - as in the rationalist architecture it paralleled - the artist determines everything mathematically.

Roth is probably best remembered in Britain for the excellent exhibition he curated at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) in 1946 on Swiss architecture and planning and for his much admired books. He published *The New Architecture*, in 1939. In it, he

issued in 1950 and his autobiography, *Alfred Roth: Architekt der Kontinuität* in 1985. He was made an honorary member of the RIBA in 1948.

Alfred Roth was a generous man and widely admired locally as a *Vermittler* (or facilitator), bringing together people from many disciplines, encouraging writers and students to clarify their thoughts on art and architecture. He

issued in 1950 and his autobiography, *Alfred Roth: Architekt der Kontinuität* in 1985. He was made an honorary member of the RIBA in 1948.

the estate with a Swiss friend a few years ago, I rang his doorbell. He welcomed us and once inside I discovered one of my own books opened on his drawing board at the pages that featured his work.

Soon he was talking us through his work. He was still active as architect in his late eighties. We looked briefly at the drawings of his work on the Middle East, particularly his accomplished Sabagh Centre in Beirut (with Aalto). But it was his own house he was most proud of and he took us on a tour. He pointed out the many small Mondrian-like coloured drawings he had propped up all over the house - except in the rooms hired out to students.

Significantly, he had reduced his own living requirements to a camp bed in the living room and the use of the shared facilities. He lived out his functionalist role to the end.

DENNIS SHARP

Alfred Roth, architect: born Wangen, Switzerland 21 May 1903; died Zurich 20 October 1998.

He warned that the most important aspect of Functionalism was its demand for 'beauty, harmony, nobility and inventiveness'

featured the Boots Factory at Beeston in Nottinghamshire by Sir Owen Williams side by side with work by the second generation of Modern Movement masters, thus acknowledging the successful diaspora of the Functionalist idea. His book on the New School was

served as a professor of architecture at the Swiss Federal Institute from 1957 to 1971 and taught briefly at Harvard.

His own house and studio on the Doldertal estate have more recently become a place of pilgrimage for a whole new generation of architects. Touring

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CLARK: Mary, aged 90, peacefully in Greenwich. Funeral at Morten College Chapel, Blackheath, 31 December at 3pm.

HEPPER: see Barlow, on 18 December in Croydon. Patricia, aged 88, beloved mother of Vernon, Victor and Gerald Bill, and stepmother of Edward and Richard Hepper. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Morden Park, on 24 December at 1pm. St Mary's Church, Catherleigh. Enquiries to A. White & Sons 01363 772043.

MULGAN: Diana, died peacefully at home on Friday 18 December 1998, aged 59. Her wife of 10 years, followed him to the grave on Wednesday 23 December at 3.30pm at Mortlake Crematorium. Flowers or donations for "The Hale Clinic" or "Musicians Benevolent Fund" may be sent to 111 St John's & St Paul's High Street, Brixton, SW13. The Rev Barry Smith will officiate.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Roger II, King of Sicily, 1095; Hermann Samuel Reimarus theologian and philosopher, 1644; James Edward Oglethorpe, colonist and founder of Georgia, 1696; Jean-Etienne Liotard, painter, 1702; Carl Friedrich Abel, composer, 1728; John Crome ("Old Crome"), landscape painter, 1768; Franz Abt, composer and conductor, 1819; Jean-Henri Fabre, naturalist, 1823; Charles Stuart Calverley, poet and parodist, 1821; William Hall, White ("Mark Rutherford"), novelist, 1831; John Nevil Maskelyne, stage magician, 1839; Teresa Carreño, pianist, 1853; Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini, operatic composer, 1858; Edwin Arlington Robinson, poet, 1869; Franz Schmidt, com-

poser, 1874; Edgard (Edgar Victor Achille-Charles) Varese, composer, 1883; Deems Taylor, composer, 1885; Alan Dudley Bush, composer, conductor and pianist, 1900; Pierre Brasseur (Pierre-Albert Espinasse), actor, 1905.

Deaths: Aulus Vitellius, Roman emperor, beheaded AD 69; François Clouet (Janet), miniature painter, 1572; Maximilien de Béthune, Duke of Sully, soldier and statesman, 1614; Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (Guercino), painter, 1666; Richard Alleine, religious writer, 1681; Michel Baron (Michel Boyron), actor and playwright, 1729; Jaroslav Zelenka, composer, 1745; Simon Mathurin Lantara, landscape painter, 1778; James Harris, grammarian, 1780; St Philip Francis, civil servant and writer, 1818; The Rev Martin Joseph Routh, scholar, 1854; George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans), novelist, 1880; Henry Watterson, journalist and politician, 1921; Dwight Lyman Moody, evangelist, 1899; Baron Richard von Kraft-Ebing, psychiatrist, 1902; Nathaniel West (Nathan Wallenstein Weinsteim), novelist, 1904; Franz Boas, anthropologist, 1942; Helen Beatrix Potter, writer and artist, 1913; Harry Langdon, silent film comedian, 1944; Richard Frederick Dimbleby, television commentator, 1968; Josef von Sternberg, film director, 1969; Darryl Francis Zanuck, film producer, 1979; William Henry Pilkington, Baron Pilkington, 1983; David Penhaligon MP, killed in a car accident 1988; Lord (Ted) Willis, playwright, politician and writer, 1992.

On this day: the Gregorian calendar was introduced into Germany and Switzerland, 1583; James Stuart, the Old Pretender, landed at Peterhead, 1715; the first pantomime in England was staged at the Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre, 1716; Beethoven's 5th and 6th (Pastoral) symphonies were first played in Vienna, 1808; Alfred Dreyfus was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment on Devil's Island, 1895; the Ministry of Pensions was first set up, 1916; the musical show *Lilac Time* was first produced in London, 1922; in Java, the Merapi volcano erupted, causing over 700 deaths, 1930; the musical show *High Button Shoes* was first produced in London, 1948; the withdrawal of British and French forces from Port Said was completed, 1956; Southern Rhodesia left the Commonwealth, 1966; Kurt Waldheim was elected Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1971; a violent earthquake in Guinea resulted in over 400 deaths, 1983; a Pan American jumbo jet crashed on to the town of Lockerbie in Scotland, killing all 259 passengers and crew, and 11 people on the ground, 1988.

Today is the Feast Day of St Chaeremon and Others, St Flavian of Tuscany, St Ischyron and St Zeno.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Clare Ford Willie, "Neo-Classical Portraiture", 2pm.

EPRIME ESHAG

A memorial occasion to commemorate the life and work of Eprime Eshag will be held in Wadham College, Oxford, on Saturday 23 January 1999, starting in the Holywell Music Room at 2.30pm.

DINNERS

Royal Society of Saint George
Lord Levene of Portsoken, Lord Mayor of London, and Lady Levene, Lady Mayoress,

150

HISTORICAL NOTES

RALPH HARRINGTON

People on the move in the ancient world

TRANSPORT IS as old as human society: as long as people have been around, they have moved themselves and the things they need from place to place.

The oldest recorded story in the world, the Mesopotamian *Epic of Gilgamesh* from the third millennium BC, contains an important and enigmatic passage about Urshanabi, the ferryman of Utanapishtim, who carries King Gilgamesh of Uruk across the ocean that is the boundary of the known world: this is possibly the earliest reference we have to a transport professional. Fifteen hundred years later we have the account of the difficulties Odysseus encountered in voyaging from Troy to Ithaka. The 500-mile journey ended up taking him 10 years: not for nothing in the ancient world was the sea regarded as alarming and untrustworthy.

Land travel, too, had its perils.

So he was talking us through his work. He was still active as architect in his late eighties. We looked briefly at the drawings of his work on the Middle East, particularly his accomplished Sabagh Centre in Beirut (with Aalto). But it was his own house he was most proud of and he took us on a tour. He pointed out the many small Mondrian-like coloured drawings he had propped up all over the house - except in the rooms hired out to students.

Significantly, he had reduced his own living requirements to a camp bed in the living room and the use of the shared facilities. He lived out his functionalist role to the end.

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Forget Santa: Christmas is a girl thing

At the Nativity Mary took centre stage and Joseph had a walk-on part. Today it's even worse – men are almost redundant at Christmas. By Andrew Martin

In Jesus, My Boy, currently playing at the Apollo Theatre in London, the writer, John Dowie, sets out to promote the forgotten man of Christmas. That man was Joseph, whose role in the Nativity was to be grateful and humbly accepting of his fate while generally letting his wife and child take the limelight – a very similar reaction, in fact, to the one required of a latter-day male receiving a humorous bath on Christmas morning.

For the fact is that all men are the forgotten men of Christmas. There's just nothing in it for them. They must sit by ever-growing piles of socks, muttering: "Just what I've always wanted", or trying to make their faces do that thing that women's automatically do at this time of year when long-forgotten relatives appear: "light up". In the end they usually have to settle for lighting up a cigarette.

I personally am marginalised in my household from about the start of Advent. That's when my wife begins buying presents, writing cards, making lists, often while listening to loud tapes of Christmas carols to get her in the mood, which is very disturbing when you consider that she's not only Jewish but an atheist.

But Christmas isn't a religious thing any more. It's a woman's thing, and as the festival has grown, so it's become even more of a woman's thing: one big, stressful, inter-household domestic arts com-

petition. In America, women are literally going mad while "doing" Christmas, according to the blueprint of the lifestyle guru, Martha Stewart. The centrepiece of the Martha Stewart Christmas spread is her famously challenging gingerbread house, which one of her disciples once wrote in to say – with pride and without bitterness – that she had completed after an entire year of more or less continuous work (longer, in all probability, than it would have taken her to build a real house).

In Britain, the obstacle course is laid out by Delia Smith. Consider the subtitle of her book, Delia Smith's Christmas: "One hundred and thirty recipes... for Christmas".

The tension mounts steadily as the clock ticks towards the glorious apotheosis/tear-stained nadir that is Christmas lunch? Well, they're sharing the highs, of course, as when the salt-crusted mini baked potatoes with cold chive hollandaise approximate to the photograph on page 146... but then again, who really cares about that?

They're also sharing the lows, which tend to be more memorable, and louder. These usually occur in our house as my wife is baking her Traditional Christmas Biscuits for serving at a soirée on Christmas Eve. Now, she's superb at most of the

Christmas arts, but not great at baking, and the making of the Traditional Christmas Biscuits is traditionally preceded by the throwing out of the lot from last year.

Generally the Biscuits burn while I'm supposed to be watching them (except that I didn't hear her say that I should be watching them), or I accidentally throw out the mixture. Or whatever. The upshot is that I end up feeling like Johnny to her Fanny Cradock. George to her Milda: a wretched lump, called on to help, yet unable to; and deep down I know that my help is in fact not wanted because my wife likes doing Christmassy things and wants to do them unaided.

That's my rationale, anyway, and I'm sticking to it. I've got enough on my hands doing the alien Christmas tasks which are entrusted to me, such as the sending of Christmas cards to those of our friends who are more mine than hers.

This year, after the usual agonising, I have selected an image of a graveyard – a little downbeat maybe, but sober-sided and dignified: a good, many image. All the profits from these cards go to charity (I think they're in aid of the dead or something) so that's good too. But I'm worried about the inscription: "May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you through the year." That word "joy"... it's not really me.

A proper man's Christmas card should say something cautious like: "Wishing you a trouble-free festive



season", or "Here's Hoping You Can Get Away to the Football on Boxing Day". Then you might not feel that every card you sent was a betrayal of your masculinity.

Another problem area for men is the wrapping and giving of presents. There should be degree courses in this, the syllabus to include subjects such as "How to control Sellotape" and "What constitutes a nice pair of earrings?" At best, the presents I give my wife can be exchanged for something she really wants, whereas hers to me might have been the product of mind-reading. In this context it's absurd that Father Christmas – that paragon of wrapping and giving – is a man. What Father Christmas should be is a woman, which he's no

doubt already become in the more PC areas of London.

That said, though, I have been on an upward curve in gift-giving ever since I was 10. In that year I gave my father a stone for Christmas. Not just an ordinary stone, of course. No, I'd taken some trouble to write his name, "Dad", in green felt-tip across the top of it. He approved of this gift because he didn't have to pretend to be very grateful (it was only a stone, after all) and at least it wasn't afterwards. (Note to gift-giving aunts: men do not use aftershave.)

My father is a kind person but like a lot of men left to their own devices, a Christmas sceptic. And he was left to his own devices, my mother having died when I was young. So when, as a small boy, I'd ask him how Santa Claus could come down our chimney when we had a gas fire pretty firmly cemented in there, he would just shrug and say: "Magic". In a take-it-or-leave-it tone. No elaborately constructed whimsical explanations; no bullshit. Of course, shopping was torture to him, which is why his Christmas present to me was usually a tanner whipped out of his wallet as he grudgingly stuffed the turkey.

"Don't spend it all at once," he'd say, as he handed it over. No "merry Christmas" or "compliments of the season", because those words are not designed to be uttered between two males.

At my wife's prompting, we strive to give our own children a cosy, mag-

ical Delia Smith-type Christmas. And one of the 50 or so tasks on her Christmas list is the leaving out of a glass of port for Santa, which I am required to down before going to bed. No great hardship, admittedly; just in case our forensically astute boys smell a rat come the morning. But still they're in tears by 8am as children always will be as long as the words "batteries not included" are part of the English language.

On reflection, I am aware that a slight note of curmudgeonliness may be detectable in this article. But I'm not entirely pessimistic. The miserableness of men at Christmas could be reduced by the simple expedient of reducing Christmas. And who knows? A lot of women might find they like it that way too.

It's the time of year to catch up with family, meet old friends, eat decent food and... get the laundry done. By Cayte Williams

Home is... where the washing machine is

THE STUDENTS have finally come to the end of their first term in the second year. After three months of juggling essays, parties and work they are going home for a bit of TLC – time out, laundry and cooking.

Parents all over the country are looking forward to seeing their offspring return home, only to find themselves knee-deep in dirty washing and washing-up. How many Quality Street can one person eat? they will ask themselves. And how much telly can a 19-year-old watch without turning catatonic?

"I've just packed," says Rosie, "and I'm taking all my clothes that aren't clean. I'm going home for six weeks and I can't pick my bag up. And I'm going to have lots of cooked meals. My mum always says I treat the house like a hotel because I'm always popping in and out. I only really stay at home to eat and sleep."

Despite the burden on their washing machine, does Rosie's family miss her? "My mum will miss me now because she hasn't seen me for a month and a half, but at the same time they like the peace without me. My brother is 16 and we always fight when I go

THIS STUDENT LIFE



END OF TERM AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

home. We're always winding each other up. When I go home, I deliberately sit in his seat in the living room just to annoy him."

Although Rosie loves going home, she feels she's outgrown her old role in the family.

"I feel a bit odd now," she explains, "like I'm a guest."

Leona's mum thinks she treats the place like a hotel, too. But then she might have a point, since she usually gets her mum to drive up from Coventry so she can fit all her washing in the car. This year, however, Leona is getting the train.

"I'm still taking loads of laundry though," she says. "I'm only going back for a month, because I want to come back to Manchester and look for a job. I'm looking forward to seeing my mum and having clean clothes, a clean house and proper dinners."

Both girls are not as bone idle as they sound. They're going to work while they're away. Leona for a local firm and Rosie in the china and glass department of Harrods: "I work over Christmas and through the sale," she explains. "It's hell for a few weeks but then I'll get all this money to pay off my debts."

Although Rosie works hard, she enjoys it. "They pile all the china really high during the sale and it's so funny when someone knocks it over, because when one plate goes they all go." She's also served

some famous faces: "Ringo Starr came in with his wife Barbara," she recalls. "He was really charming. He asked me what my favourite thing in the department was, and said that he'd probably get that! I just missed Jack Nicholson once and I was gutted."

Tash is looking forward to going home to London for the holidays, and probably gets the most homesick of everyone. "I'm not a big fan of Christmas," she says, "but it will be nice to see my daddy and my brother." Tash is particularly close to her father, as he brought up both her and her older brother single-handedly after their mother died when Tash was only nine. "We're very close. I speak to him on the telephone every day. It's a silly thing, really, I don't have to. My daddy's really great." She's not so enthusiastic about this time of year. "I don't get excited about Christmas. I suppose I'm looking forward to eating drinking and getting merry," she says, "and I'll do some good home cooking."

Ian, meanwhile, isn't going home over Christmas. He'll be working at Revolution, the pub where he has a bar job, but he doesn't really mind. "I'll make some decent money and have a good laugh," he explains, "and then I'm going to the Edinburgh street party for New Year."

So will he miss any of his friends while they're away? "There's this girl called Heidi," he says, rather coyly, "and I would like to wish her a merry Christmas." So is romance in the air? Ian plays it cautiously. "We're just friends," he says.

Meanwhile, Alistair and David are off to visit his dad, who works for the North Carolina State University in America.

LEONA was studying Maths

RACHAEL studying Art History

ROSIE studying French

DAVID studying Management

TASH studying Management

ALISTAIR studying Management

DANI studying Biology

IAN studying Geography

ROBBIE studying Economics

place where I can just sit and chill."

He's going to Tsuen Wan, to spend Christmas with his mum, and this time he hopes she's got over his spiky haircut.

"We don't really celebrate Christmas here," he explains. "It's a bit like Chinese New Year in Britain. You know people are having parties, you are aware of it, but you don't really celebrate it. I'll probably spend more time going out shopping with my mum."

Both boys are bound to have a fabulous time. It's just a shame about airline limitations on luggage. They won't be able to take their laundry.

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TO THE CHANCELLOR

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TO THE CHANCELLOR

IN THE MATTER OF</h

Doesn't do much, does he?

He's been compared to a bag of spanners. Yet he's done everything, from *Titus Andronicus* to *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*. And still we keep looking. And looking. The fact is, Pete Postlethwaite is a terrific actor who gives great face. By James Rampton

Pete Postlethwaite is candid about the way he looks. "It's all in the cheekbones, this career of mine," he says. "They are quite whopping, aren't they? Who was it that said: 'He looks like he's got a clavicle stuck in his mouth?'" Other critics have scarcely been more flattering. One wrote of "those cheekbones bursting out of his head like swollen knuckles". Another commented that he had "a face like a bag of spanners".

Certainly his face has been his fortune. In a film world awash with actors apparently cloned from Ken and Barbie, Postlethwaite's lived-in looks stand out. "Hollywood is looking for different types," says Sita Williams, the producer of *Lost for Words*, his latest vehicle, a moving portrayal of a son caring for his mother (Thora Hird) after she has a stroke. "Pete is no different from Jack Nicholson. He's no great beauty but he has great charisma. It's not about classic good looks, but presence."

Joy Spink is line producer on *Among Giants*, the new film scripted by the writer of *The Full Monty*, Simon Beaufoy. She sums up the film, touted as "a Boys from the Blackstuff for the Nineties," with a tongue-twister: "Pete Postlethwaite paints pylonns." Spink adds: "He's not the sort of person I'd normally find attractive, but on screen it doesn't matter who he's with, you just can't stop looking at him."

But is all this swooning really called for? Aren't we Brits, riddled with inferiority complexes, always in danger of going over the top about anyone who makes it in Hollywood? Well, I reckon Postlethwaite just about lives up to the hype. He does possess an uncanny, jolts laid screen magnetism. Remember his riveting performance as the ailing band-leader in *Brassed Off*?

He also has the knack of making the most apparently irredeemable baddies human. He even managed to find traces of humanity in the brutal father in Terence Davies' *Distant Voices, Still Lives*, and in the sinister henchman Kobayashi from *The Usual Suspects*. The latter performance prompted *The New York Times* to observe: "Here's a guy with



Postlethwaite - 'It's not about classic good looks, but presence' - is a son caring for his stroke-stricken mother (Thora Hird) in 'Lost for Words'

a false tan, a false accent, and a false name - and we still believe in him."

"As an actor, my greatest strength is weakness," Postlethwaite reckons. "I can play vulnerable. In *Titus Andronicus*, I played this complete and utter bastard who'd say: 'Oft have I digged up dead men from their graves and stood them upright at their neighbours' doors, carving their names into their skins.' But then Shakespeare gives him a single scene with his baby, where he

says to the child: 'I'll feed you on roots and goats' milk and make you a soldier of men.' For that one flash, a window opens and everyone thinks: 'Actually, he's not all that bad.' When you've got a face like mine - which the principal of the Bristol Old Vic Drama School once said was like a stone archway - and you show some kind of compassion and empathy in it, then you can't go wrong. That's startling to audiences because it's not what they expect."

Asked to elaborate, Postlethwaite goes all transcendental. "That's like asking a centipede which leg it sets off with. If you're listening, you listen. If you're speaking, you speak. It's all terribly Zen. I've always really believed in that saying: 'When you understand... things are just as they are. When you don't understand... things are just as they are.'"

Lost for Words is an apt title for a Postlethwaite film as a large part of his appeal stems from his ability

to say things without speaking. In the affecting final scene, he sits quietly holding his mother's spectacles and ruminating on her life, as a bitter-sweet smile plays across his lips. "He appears to be doing very little on screen," says Williams. "His face is very expressive and he has wonderful eyes (green). He is so successful on film as he can communicate through a look, or the smallest turn of the head. 'Think of the menace he conveys with one

piercing gaze in *The Usual Suspects*. In the flesh, that stillness might be interpreted as sternness. He does have a reputation for being demanding. 'He's a craftsman, and like all craftsmen he wants to get things absolutely right.' Williams says by way of explanation. 'If he makes demands, it's because he wants to use his craft to its absolute limit.'

In the early 1990s, Postlethwaite was respected in the business but hardly setting the box-office alight.

Bit parts in *The Bill* and *Casualty* do not a Hollywood big shot make. All that changed in 1993. The director Jim Sheridan was struggling desperately to find the right actor to play Daniel Day-Lewis's father in *In the Name of the Father*, when Day-Lewis said: "I know who my dad is." He put forward the little known Postlethwaite, an old mate from the Bristol Old Vic. An Oscar nomination swiftly followed, and Steven Spielberg was writing to express his admiration and offer meaty parts.

Postlethwaite has since become one of the busiest actors - in a three-year period only Harvey Keitel had played in more movies. But he concedes: "I've made mistakes. I don't think I could quite... 100 per cent endorse every film I've ever done."

Playing opposite a fire-breathing creature in *Dragonheart* may not have been one of his smartest career moves, and even the actor expresses doubts about *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*. "It was rather a good script, but that's not what we filmed. You're in a twilight zone when you go into that sort of blockbuster."

He's adamant Hollywood hasn't turned his head. Despite appearing in such big-budget movies as *Amistad* and *Alien 3*, he shuns big-city life - "I don't like London" - and still leads a quiet existence in rural Shropshire with his partner and two young children. When his agent tried to persuade him to change his hard-to-pronounce surname to something more media-friendly, he dropped the agent, not the name.

Postlethwaite will again be under a fierce spotlight with the release next year of *Among Giants*, in which he performs his debut "full monty" on screen. "I get to play my first romantic lead, and it involves a love scene [with Rachel Griffiths]. The scene was absolutely right, so I did it. Not bad really at 52. There are bonuses in this job. All the same, I did have all the normal worries because I don't think I'm one of those glamorous guys like Rock Hudson."

A smooth, dull Rock or a fascinating, craggy stone archway? I know which one I'd rather look at.

"Lost for Words" is on ITV on Sunday, 3 January. "Among Giants" will be released next year.

Oops, there go my pantalons

INTERVIEWING BRIAN Rix on a recent edition of *Midweek*, Liberal Purves wondered if he was dismayed that, after all those years of heroic trouser-dropping for England, in any word-association game the term "arse" would still trigger the response "French". Not that our knowledge of Gallic ooh-la-la is particularly deep. A fair bit of Feydeau and a soupon of Labiche is about as far as it goes. Mention the names of Maurice Hennequin and Pierre Weber, another pair of 19th-century Parisian farceurs, and there is unlikely to be a stampede of recognition, except perhaps up in Manchester where two of their plays had pioneering productions at the Royal Exchange. Sam Walters' delightful staging of *Court in the Act* at the Orange Tree suggests we would do well to rummage deeper in the back catalogue of this talented collaborative team.

THEATRE

COURT IN THE ACT
ORANGE TREE
RICHMOND

The proceedings are given an immediate charm by the way Walters and his first-rate ensemble cheekily point up the fact that an in-the-round theatre like the Orange Tree is, in some ways, an incongruous space for a classic proscenium-stage farce.

In this genre of fast and disastrous exits and entrances, doors play a starring role, but they wouldn't look at all natural in a set-up where the actors have to dart in and out through the corner aisles.

The solution here is to make a droll feature of the fact that there is a very visible sound effect: man at the side supplying the noises of slammed doors, creaking turnstiles, etc., to the cast's mimed actions. It

is a tactic that skilfully pulls the audience in to the idea of the play as an enchantingly elaborate contraption.

In *Court in the Act*, the Minister of Justice (Richard Heffer) declares that the legal system of the country has ground to a halt not by means of a revolution, but because of a beauty spot. The latter belongs to Lucy Tregeear's seductive Gobette, a young musical star, who takes on a bet that she can conquer Tricoinet, the fussy proper self-important president of a provincial tribunal (David Timson). But an unscheduled visit from the Minister results in her bedding him, while having to pose as Tricoinet's wife.

Will this ruin Tricoinet or, as the reward for a hush-up, will it provide the back-door route to that longed-for promotion to Paris that has been barred to him thus far? he feels, by his scatty, low-born liability of a spouse, played by Auriol Smith?

PAUL TAYLOR

Tb 30 Jan (0181-940 3633)

With real wives and impostors ricocheting around the capital, his chances yo-yo dramatically. In one of the best running gags, a hapless minion at the Ministry (Paul Kemp), who is desperate to catch a train, has to redraft a contract no fewer than eight times.

Hennequin and Weber give the shenanigans a lovely spin with hilarious characters like Jeremy Crutchley's dim, conceited and accidentally suggestive bilingual policeman ("if you need any help, I have two tongues at your service") and Stuart Fox's excellent Marius, an old, bent snob of an usher at the Ministry who can't stand living in a republic and is therefore out to foil his unendurably non-aristocratic boss.

A sort of *Oui, Monsieur Le Ministre* on speed, this is a total treat.

PAUL TAYLOR

Tb 30 Jan (0181-940 3633)

Good Hook, but no catch

THE JOYS OF J M Barrie's *Peter Pan* in the way it offers a lingering look at a state of childhood innocence; its pains derive from the fact that, for better or worse, once gone that state can never be reclaimed. The depressing thing about John Caird and Trevor Nunn's version, directed by Fiona Laird, is that, for all its lavish display, it admits defeat so easily, offering a description of childhood that is often muddled and embarrassed.

Despite the fact that it weighs in at a fidget-inducing three hours, the production is clearly designed to appeal to the easily enchantable, though not unscrupulous, gaze of pre-pubescents. On opening night, younger members of the audience were as vocal in their enthusiasm for the flying scenes as they were in pointing out the *met* operants ("You can see the wire!" a high-pitched voice behind me announced gleefully). And, for a few minutes, it's hard not to be awed, as the three siblings launch

THEATRE

PETER PAN
NATIONAL THEATRE
LONDON

themselves through the nursery window.

Somewhere in the clouds, though, the show takes a wrong turning. John Napier's Never Land set, a rotating island groaning under the weight of its landscaped layers, resembles a CenterParcs kind of idyll. Far more troubling is the portrayal of the Lost Boys by actors who look well past the first flush of youth. Their faces smeared, their fully grown bodies covered in imitation skins, Pan's people ape the mannerisms of Edwardian crabbies rather than adventurous young shavers.

This exaggerated infantilism is unwelcome in a play that delicately tackles the process of sexual maturation. Indeed, Wendy's presence as surrogate mother should be seen to stir in her young brood some-



David Troughton as Captain Hook with Justin Salinger as Peter Pan. Both villain and hero are lovable

thing more than fake-filial affection. Perhaps Laird imagines that the overacting sends up the widely sputtered view of women as servants, but portraying the Lost Boys as mummies' boys robs them of the ordinariness that marks Peter Pan as different.

Justin Salinger's Pan conveys both the sadness of a none-too-splendid isolation and

the exuberance of boyhood, and David Troughton offers a redeeming blast of pantomime with assurance from fretful Mr Darling to the fiendishly arch pirate basking in boos and hisses. Hero and villain are lovable, both. The problem lies with the company they keep.

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American immigrant Arshile Gorky was sidelined by Abstract Expressionism. Time for a reassessment? By Barèt Magarian

Through the eyes of a child

Arshile Gorky is one of the great enigmas of 20th century art. His influence has been vast and yet his name does not carry the weight of his contemporaries – Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning, and Jackson Pollock. Born in 1901, he was raised in a provincial farming community in Western Armenia, and emigrated to America in 1920, where he later flourished in New York's bohemian circle, evolving into a brilliantly dynamic painter.

He survived the Armenian genocide that took place between 1915 and 1920 when the Ottoman Turks murdered, tortured and uprooted two million Armenians, raping their lands and destroying their culture. In New York he kept his past a secret to stifle its pain, and took the name of the Russian writer Maxim Gorky, whom he admired. His real name was Manoug Adoian.

Nourita Matossian has written a profoundly moving, illuminating biography of the painter she spent 15 years researching. She is the only biographer of Gorky's who has had intimate access to his relatives and culture, having undertaken a pilgrimage to the site of his birthplace, now in present day Eastern Turkey.

Her visceral prose in *Black Angel – A Life of Arshile Gorky* conveys the magical, otherworldly aura of the village of Van where he grew up. She provides an intricate historical framework for the circumstances of his early life and the genocide. After bringing Gorky and his sister to safety, their mother died of starvation during the famine that gripped Armenia in 1919. His work forever after paid tribute to her memory, in the most haunting way.

The genocide shattered everything – it took away his mother, his home, his family. His way of dealing with it was by creating a new identity. He felt an immense debt to his mother because she was his greatest teacher and inspiration – not because she taught him art, but because of the way she looked at the world and made him sensitive to objects, nature and encouraged him to



paint and draw. His sister Vartoosh told me how, after he'd finished it, he showed her the double portrait of *The Artist and his Mother* and said: 'Here's my mum – you can talk to her now. It was as if he was bringing her back to life.'

Various commentators have discerned the influence of Picasso, Cézanne, Ingres, and Miro in *The Artist and his Mother*, seeing it as a work of eclectic elegance. Matossian argues audaciously that the central inspirations were the frescoes of the Virgin and saints in the Church of the Holy Cross that were situated near to Gorky's childhood village.

"In addition to informing his work, the sacred art he had been saturated in as a boy made him reject the concept of commercial art. This ascetic seriousness struck a lot of the people around him, including de Kooning, who was very devoted to him and Rothko, whom Gorky taught for a short period.

"De Kooning always said that Gorky was the master. He delved back into the molten core of his memories and recast them via modern Western techniques."

His lofty, moral view of art relates to the sense that emerges from the book of Gorky's self-imposed mission to vindicate the victims of the geno-

cide. While some of the mature paintings are conceived within its devastating orbit, others embody Gorky's life-affirming character and come close to being works of sheer exuberance. Colours, dance, and shapes and structures appear to be in a state of motion as he captures the flux of experience in associative, kaleidoscopic webs. But the purity of Gorky's approach to art was to consign him to neglect.

"He didn't care about selling things; he gave away paintings very readily. He tried to get a dealer, but it wasn't what was important to him. And because he died young there was no one around to promote his work. No one was really pushing him and making sure the exhibitions were going ahead. The other reason he isn't more well known was because a lot of people thought that Abstract Expressionism necessarily led to the kind of work that Pollock and others ended up doing. Gorky didn't go down the same route, so people thought he was stuck in the past. I think this is a completely erroneous view. He was pursuing his own culturally authentic agenda; and there is a sensitivity and finesse in his work that is totally original in American art. No one else painted in the way Gorky did."

Towards the end, Gorky's life was prised apart by misfortunes that seemed eerily to link with the traumas of his childhood. A fire destroyed many of his paintings; he lost his wife to the Chilean artist Matta Echurren; his body was decimated by cancer. In the end, at the age of 46, he gave up the struggle, and took his own life.

Despite the darkness of Gorky's life, Matossian's account is paradoxically enlivening as it tells his story with an almost novelistic intensity. Her book finally leaves us with the image of a man of monumental will and spirit, who embraced life with every fibre, and whose sufferings never undermined his integrity either as a man or as an artist.

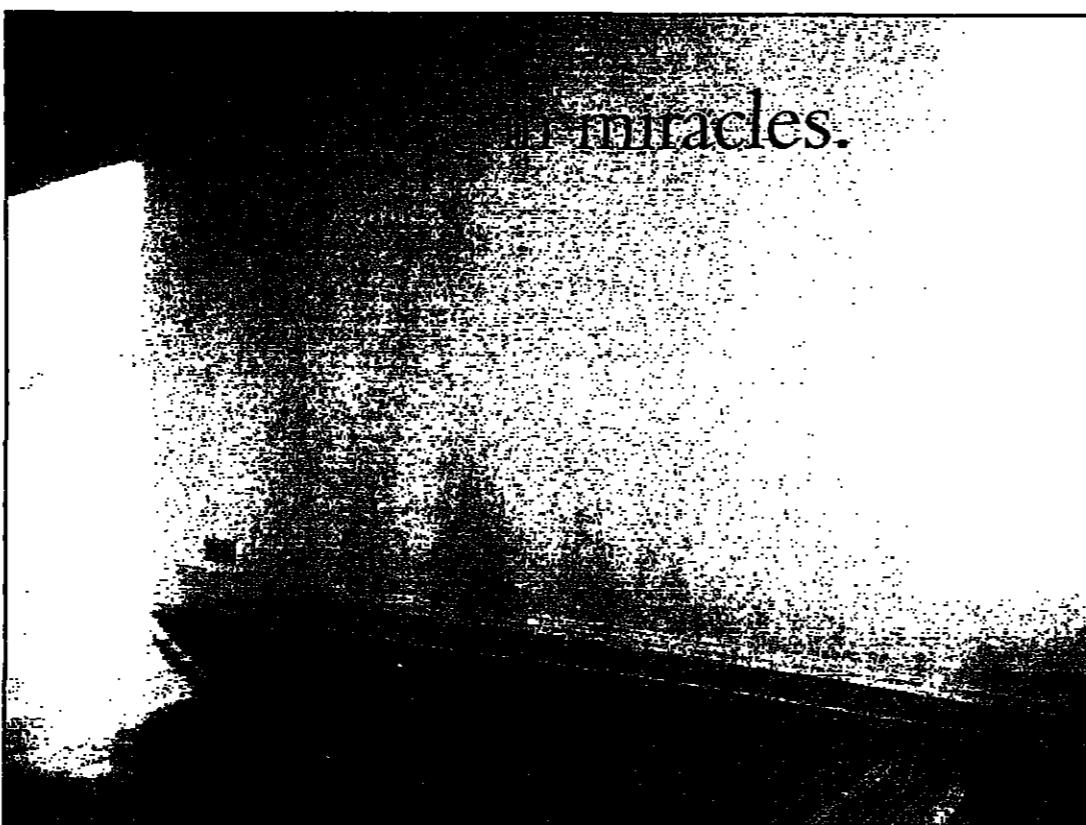
Black Angel – A Life of Arshile Gorky is published by Chatto and Windus, £25.



Main picture: 'The Artist and his Mother' by Arshile Gorky; left, Nourita Matossian

In every home a headache

As Christmas approaches, an exhibition in Edinburgh offers a fresh take on the ghosts of festivities past: nostalgia and claustrophobia. By Elisabeth Mahoney



It's no insult to say that Inverleith House is the star of the show

Sometimes this organisation of the work produces a quite magical effect. Best of all is the dining-room, an almost calm white space, with huge windows that flood the room with weak, wintry sunlight. Here we find Callum Innes's white painting, *Resonance XII*, which through his trademark use of turpentine to remove patches of paint, looks like white gauze over a torn or scarred surface. In the centre of the room are six white chairs made by Simon Starling, copies of Eames chairs from the mid-Fifties, arranged around an invisible table. The room is like nostalgia itself – tempting place to go, but there's always something missing; a resonance of the past is indeed all that's left.

For *Family*, those ghosts have been stirred from their slumber, with the original domestic use of each room playfully revived and no labelling of work, to accentuate the atmosphere of a private house. In the drawing-room, there are seven drawings, hung along one wall, the wires left visible, highlighting the room's cornicing as much as the work itself. Apart from the works, the room is empty – as if to remind us that this use of space is now largely redundant. Not many of us have a room like this just for formal receptions.

Next to the dining-room is the odd

little Inner Hall where Lisa Roberts's sound installation, a recording of a 15-minute walk through Central Park in New York, captures the muffled sound of conversations passing her by, and the wild whistling wind. It draws attention to the in-between nature of this small space – not deep inside the house, but not outside; a space usually passed through quickly with just a glance at the view.

Richard Billingham's photograph of his mother, in his well known brutal realist style, renders the Inner Hall suddenly more claustrophobic, a place you could get trapped in. Upstairs, in the traditionally private rooms, things are more dramatic. In the billiard room Billingham's father fixes himself a drink, looking like Steptoe in the

Paul Nesbitt

squalor of a kitchen specialising in liquid lunches. In one bedroom, it's about the attraction (or at least co-existence) of opposites – Whitehead's drawings of concave and convex beds, and Tatsuo Miyajima's red and green LED numerical display, *Opposite Harmony*; two screens of changing numbers, strangely compelling and calming to look at; in the other bedroom, a private moment of misery in Georgina Starr's video, *Crying*.

Maybe she got the wrong end of a cracker.

Family, to 31 Jan at Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Gdns, Edinburgh (0131-348 2943). Open 10.30am-3.30pm, admission free. Closed 24-28 Dec, 28 Dec-1 Jan, and Mondays

THE INDEPENDENT COLLECTOR

JOHN WINDSOR'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING CONTEMPORARY ART
THIS WEEK: LAWRIE SIMONSON

ANOTHER BUG – but quite unlike last week's computer-generated print of a ladybird. Lawrie Simonson trained as a graphic designer, but balked at computer imaging and took a course in welding at his local poly. Now, at 48, he is Britain's foremost junk sculptor.

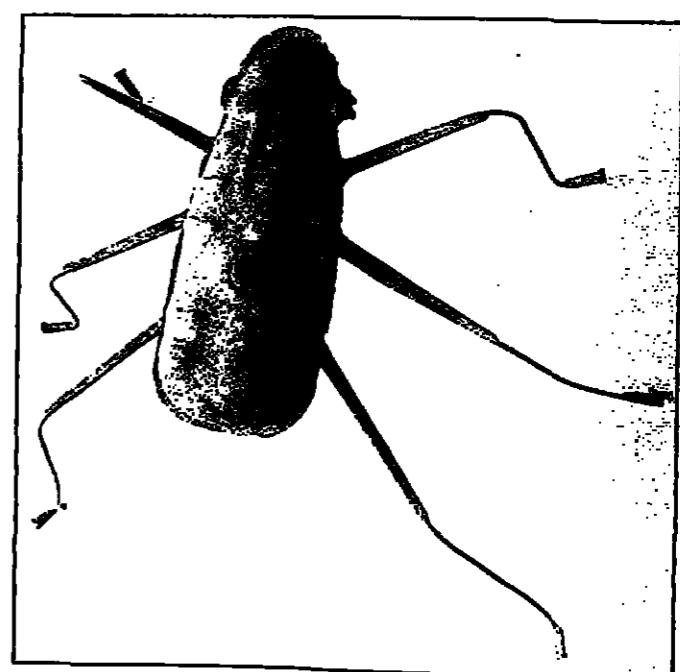
His water beetle, shown here, is 2ft tall and weighs 12lb. Its body is a discarded car exhaust, its legs are iron rods, bent in a vice. The realistic feet have been welded on.

It is lurching slightly to one side, as water beetles do. Simonson observes them and other water creatures, lying on his tummy on the banks of ponds and lakes on Hampstead Heath, Hadley Woods and Trent Park. Beetles that venture into his kitchen find themselves being scrutinised for half an hour on the table, before being released into the garden.

The trouble with most junk sculpture is that it looks like well, junk. But Simonson, who has a season ticket to London Zoo and his own library of natural history textbooks, sees particular species of animals hidden in every piece of junk he claps eyes on. This is what distinguishes him from run-of-the-mill junk sculptors, who are content to make wonky tables and chairs, or abstracts, or batches of the same well-known idea – garden rakes as birds, for example.

He found the beetle's body in a pile of 20 other worn-out exhaust pipes at an exhaust replacement centre in Archway, north London. "The man there looked at me as if I were mad," he says. But the staff at supermarkets in Soho's Chinatown have a more charitable view of the sculptor.

Simonson's metal insects and birds were a hit at Drap Art in Barcelona and Braderie de l'Art in Roubaix, France, both in 1997. In Barcelona, in a marquee outside the Museum of Modern Art, 100 artists hammered, sawed and welded for two days. Roubaix was even more frenetic: only 24 hours



Water beetle – from a car exhaust and iron rods

were allowed for creating junk masterpieces. "I hardly had time to eat," he says.

Although 90 per cent of each of Simonson's sculptures is junk, it is his sensitively modelled additions that bring them to life – the beetle's swaying legs, for example, or the head of a curlew modelled from motorist's plastic padding, its body being the discarded head of a spade.

He found the beetle's body in a pile of 20 other worn-out exhaust pipes at an exhaust replacement centre in Archway, north London. "The man there looked at me as if I were mad," he says. But the staff at supermarkets in Soho's Chinatown have a more charitable view of the sculptor.

They are flattered whenever he buys a shiny new colander or ladle – ideal for the thorax and head of insects – thinking that he has taken to Chinese cooking in a big way.

His dog's head is a water pump from a car engine, its stubby tail is a wood drill and its straight legs are the metal

supports for system-built shelving. This is not just any old dog. It's a fox terrier.

The roof of Simonson's studio in Camden Town is a menagerie of creatures that have been scrubbed clean with wire wool, then left to acquire the patina that raft and rust bring.

What does he like most about all of his clinking, clanking creatures? "It's the humour," he says.

In the past 16 years Simonson has made about 50 junk creatures and has had five corporate and public commissions, including nine sculptures – birds, insects and a mobile of a mythological sailing ship – that are on show in the Tudor Barn of Hainault Forest Country Park. His last solo show was the Millennium Bug Show at the gallery 51, Poland Street, central London, last month. A selection of his sculptures is permanently on display at the Jelly Leg'd Chicken Arts Gallery in Reading, Berkshire (0118-950 7926). Prices range from £500 to £2,000.

HEALTH

Half the people who read this article will probably be suffering from a cold. Yet last month, the Common Cold Centre admitted there is still a long battle ahead to find a cure for the world's most common illness. By Emma Cook

Still fighting the cold war

Fifty years from now, no doubt, cancer will be controllable, heart disease a distant memory and we'll all have clones for organ transplants. But you can bank on it that even in 2050 we'll still be sniffing, coughing and sneezing our way through the rest of the century.

It is almost as if the doctors have given up trying to find a cure. Ten years ago, the famous Cold Cure Unit in Salisbury closed its doors, partly because their extended trials just didn't find anything conclusive.

Now is when we need it most - the cold is the most prevalent disease among humans. Every day, about 50 million people worldwide wake up with one. Around 400,000 people will have a cold today, and this week probably half your office will have one. During an average lifespan (75 years), we'll catch around 210 colds - each lasting five or six days. On average, we each spend three years of our lives coughing and sneezing.

So why do these generally harmless infections cause so much discomfort? The virus itself causes only tiny pinpricks of damage to the lining of the nose. The symptoms of a cold are caused by our immune system which triggers the disinfecting process - coughing, runny nose - to wash away the virus.

These days, most research is carried out in other countries, even though the common cold feels like a British institution in itself. If the symptoms are, the cure certainly won't be. Last month we heard that after 10 years and £5m of research, including the painstaking construction of a 2D high model of a cold virus, the head of the Common Cold Centre had finally admitted defeat. "I don't foresee a cure in which we eradicate all the viruses," said Professor Ronald Eccles, the director of the centre at University of Wales, Cardiff. "I think the best we can hope for is to live at peace with it."

The centre has tested a large number of potential cold cures, including high-tech anti-viral agents, and so far none of them look set to eradicate the cold for ever. Instead, doctors are starting to agree that maybe lifestyle and diet could hold



We each spend, on average, three years of our lives coughing and sneezing. The best way to fight the virus seems to be a healthy lifestyle and diet. Ed Sykes

the key. Certainly, stress plays a part. Research has shown that worrying about an infection can make the symptoms more severe, weakening the immune system because the brain thinks the bug is actually worse than it really is.

As we approach the end of the century, viruses are really coming into their own, mutating, dividing and growing more resistant by the decade. As Eccles says: "The trouble is that there are more than 200

different viruses which cause colds. Finding a single cure is like trying to cure measles, chickenpox, mumps and rubella all at once."

The other obstacle is that most colds don't last long enough for doctors to prove whether the drugs have really attacked the virus that caused them. Dr Karl Nicholson, senior lecturer at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, says: "By and large, they're short-lived infections, so you've got to have a drug that gets

to the virus very quickly. It's very difficult to show that you've cut an infection from two days to one day, and much easier to prove if the symptoms last for, say, six weeks and your drugs cut it to three."

Nicholson specialises in flu viruses rather than common colds - the two might seem similar but there are important differences. Whereas the cold is a minor form of upper respiratory illness, flu tends to affect the lower respiratory area, the

chest, and is generally a more serious virus. It also seems more likely that they'll find a cure for it. According to Dr Nicholson, there are several on their way. "There have been some important developments in the last five years."

In particular, a new flu cure that stops the virus spreading in the body by blocking the action of neuraminidase, an enzyme the virus relies on to infect new cells. Glaxo has applied for a licence following trials

of more than 2,000 patients in Britain and worldwide.

But the cure doesn't help cold sufferers, who will just have to wait for their miracle cure. Wrapping up warm, drinking plenty of fluids, and staying in bed still seems to be the safest and most beneficial remedy. Or you can choose from one of the "symptom relievers" below, and kid yourself that they really work. As Professor Eccles says: "Never underestimate the power of a placebo."

Single sperm count

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

THE PUBLIC has no love for genetics. Manipulating the building blocks of life should, in the view of many, be off limits for scientists. There may be benefits from genetically modified food, even from cloning, but too much is at stake, ethically and in safety terms, to allow boffins free rein.

Strange, then, that the biggest genetic experiment of all - involving the birth of over 3,000 babies in the UK alone so far - is going on under our noses with barely a murmur of comment, let alone protest.

I am referring to ICSI - the injection of genetic material (in the form of a single sperm) into an egg to create an embryo. Its full title is Intra Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection and it is the fastest-growing method of in vitro fertilisation, according to the annual report of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, published last week.

The race that all sperm are involved in from the moment they are deposited in the vagina to reach the egg may have a purpose - to weed out damaged sperm which could pass their defects to the next generation.

The act of sexual intercourse ensures a process of natural selection - a process over-ridden by ICSI.

What are the long-term consequences of tampering with nature in this way? No one knows. Some studies have suggested a slightly higher risk of congenital defects among ICSI babies, but others have shown no such increase.

One fear is that male children born by the method will inherit the infertility suffered by their fathers. Is a man's life ruined by the discovery that he cannot have children or is it an acceptable price for being born? Does he simply choose ICSI in his turn?

The HFEA has long been concerned by ICSI, but warnings of potential genetic consequences have zero impact. The desperate desire for a child guarantees they will be ignored.

The use of ICSI is almost certain to grow because success rates are now 40 per cent higher than with ordinary IVF. We have to face the fact that we are in the midst of the biggest genetic experiment in human history - and we will not know the outcome for another 50 years.

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Comfort but no cure from pills and potions

ANTIBIOTICS

Far too many antibiotics are prescribed unnecessarily for colds and flu viruses. In a recent US survey, 60 per cent of patients seen by GPs for a common cold were given some sort of antibiotic. Another study, in Switzerland, found that antibiotics were effective only in 10 per cent of patients who had bacterial complications, which is the only reason any antibiotics should be prescribed.



ASPIRIN

Another symptom-reliever which reduces fever. "Gargling soluble aspirin can also help sore throats,

acting like an anaesthetic," says Roger Odd, who does warn against giving aspirin to children under 12 years old. In rare cases, it can cause Reye's syndrome in younger people, causing brain and liver damage. Many GPs prefer paracetamol, which also reduces feverish symptoms.



STEAM INHALATION

The oldest remedy around. It's widely believed that breathing in steam from a bowl or jug can ease the soreness and discomfort of a cold. It is cheap and safe and some people find it helpful, though

there's no solid evidence to back up the belief.

ECHINACEA

This herbal treatment based on root extracts is an increasingly popular remedy, and supposedly boosts the immune system. In a recent German trial, though, there were no significant differences between those who took it and those who were given a placebo. Professor Eccles is still keen to see more research carried out. "The widespread usage of echinacea preparations for many different infections supports the case for further analysis," he says.



VITAMIN C

Over the last 30 years, there has been a glut of studies examining the effectiveness of vitamin C. A recent overview of the research suggests that this vitamin does appear to decrease the symptoms of the common cold by an average of 23 per cent. Roger Odd says: "There is some proof it fights against the initial infection, but there's no real evidence that it can make you better once you've caught a cold."

ZINC

This is another remedy that doesn't really target the virus itself. Like vitamin C, it should be taken regularly to

protect from an infection - by the time a cold starts it's probably too late. In eight recent trials, four showed a benefit and the other four didn't.

Some people swear by its properties, although the exact mechanism through which zinc affects the common cold remains unclear.

ANTIHISTAMINES

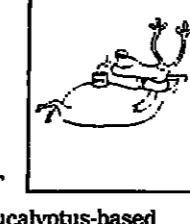
Available in tablets, capsules or spray. Speak to a pharmacist about which one to use - there are ones designed specifically for certain symptoms, such as a blocked nose. According to a recent US study, these are one of the most effective

symptom relievers - "significantly" reducing sneezing and runny nose - rhinorrhoea.

Roger Odd, head of professional and scientific services at the Royal Pharmacy Society, says: "These can ease but not cure your symptoms. Don't overuse them - your body can build up resistance to them."

CAMPHOR RUBS

There are various decongestant vapours that stimulate the nasal passages, such as the menthol-and-eucalyptus-based Vicks VapoRub, and oibas oil. Old-fashioned but soothes symptoms.



The origin of specious argument

WE'RE now so slack intellectually that any old speculation can be put out in the media as science, if it is blessed with the label "evolutionary" or "genetic".

This is partly because evolutionary research nearly always upholds the right-wing world view adhered to by 90 per cent of the press. A new study claiming a "gene for" depression or being gay is far more likely to attract column inches or television documentary coverage than one indicating a major causal influence of class, gender bias or parental care on our psychology.

A fine example is a social psychological text published earlier this year, *Wednesday's Child* by Antonio Bifulco and Patricia Moran (Routledge). Thus far, the sole attention it has attracted is one brief news report in this newspaper.

Complete with accessible case histories, the book describes the results of four studies that have been undertaken over the last 30 years of the social origins of depression in women, funded by

the Medical Research Council at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London University.

Previous publications from the same research unit have provided by far the most influential and important demonstration of the causes of depression, evidence of infinitely greater significance than anything produced by geneticists before or since: in a sample of 458 women, those with a low income (23 per cent) were far more likely to be depressed than those with a high income (6 per cent) - a finding that has been replicated in nine further studies worldwide.

To a jaded media executive the fact that being poor puts women at much greater risk of depression is of almost no interest. But *Wednesday's Child* moves the story on to a new level by explaining why some low-income women become depressed, but not others: the reason is quality of care during childhood.

Bifulco and her colleagues interviewed 500 women about whether they had been neglected or abused as children. One third of

those who had suffered one of these childhood adversities had been depressed in the 12 months before being interviewed, compared with only 12 per cent of women who had suffered no childhood problems. Equally striking, of the women who had suffered all these forms of childhood adversity together (neglect, sexual or other physical abuse), one half had been depressed in the last year.

To separate the direct impact of

childhood adversity from other influences, Bifulco examined the effects of four other factors that are known to be important: loss of a parent before the age of 16, parental conflict, parental psychiatric problems, and poverty.

As in previous studies, all these were strongly associated with depression in the adult women. However, this association was found only when coupled with neglect or abuse. If you had lost a parent, for example, or had disharmonious, poor or psychiatrically disturbed parents, it made you more likely to be depressed in adulthood only if you had also been abused or neglected. This research poses a major challenge to the genetic triumphalism that has swept our media.

Try reanalysing Bifulco's findings from the widely held assumption that depression is substantially caused by genetic factors. First of all, if depression is four times more common among poor women than in rich women, does that mean that the poor have

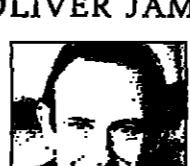
more "depressing" genes? There is not a scrap of evidence to support the idea, although it is theoretically possible.

Even if genes explain why the poor are more depressed, how come women who are neglected or abused are so much more likely to be depressed than those who are not? Surely, these are purely environmental experiences which have nothing to do with a girl's genetic make-up.

The genetic retort is that, yes, the neglect and abuse are environmental, but perhaps the propensity to inflict them on children is genetic - that parents are born with genes that make them into neglectful or abusive parents. There is a small amount of evidence that parenting styles may be slightly influenced by genes but, taken overall, Bifulco's new book makes genetic explanations of depression seem a very long shot.

Far more likely is that genes play a negligible role in much depression and that being abused and neglected as a child is

OLIVER JAMES



BRITAIN ON THE COUCH

those who had suffered one of these childhood adversities had been depressed in the 12 months before being interviewed, compared with only 12 per cent of women who had suffered no childhood problems. Equally striking, of the women who had suffered all these forms of childhood adversity together (neglect, sexual or other physical abuse), one half had been depressed in the last year.

To separate the direct impact of

depressing. Being poor - not bad genes - makes stressed-out parents more likely to be abusive and neglectful. This environmental explanation has the added practical attraction of suggesting that if we reduced the proportion of people being raised in poor and abusive or neglectful homes, the amount of adult depression would consequently decline.

Sadly, despite the potential significance of Bifulco's discoveries, they have attracted just one small newspaper report. Unlike, for example, the American evolutionary psychologist Steven Pinker, author of *How The Mind Works*, whose contribution to our understanding of human psychology is tiny by comparison, there have been no in-depth interviews with Bifulco and no lengthy articles commissioned from her.

Oliver James's *Britain on the Couch - Why We're Unhappier Compared With 1950 Despite Being Richer* is now available in paperback (Arrow, £7.99).

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MEDIA

New kids on the box

Jane Root, appointed controller of BBC 2 last week, joins a new generation of executives who are dominating the upper echelons of more egalitarian, meritocratic television networks. By Paul McCann

In 1979 the BBC aired a programme which is crucial to understanding the new generation of people who have taken over British television. It was an episode of *Arena*, edited by a 32-year-old called Alan Yentob, which took a look at the song "My Way". The programme was originally inspired by Sid Vicious's punk interpretation of the song and paid affectionate homage to a time that was an icon of popular culture.

Jane Root, who was appointed controller of BBC 2 last week, says it is not only one of her favourite programmes, but that it was influential in the direction of her career, and that Michael Jackson, the chief executive of Channel 4.

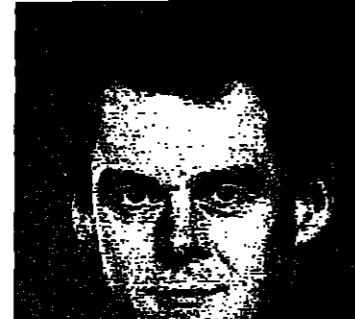
Root and Jackson are now in control of the higher-brow end of television and they started their career together. They made a programme about television called *Open the Box* which led to a series, *The Media Show*, for Channel 4.

"That episode of *Arena* took a particular cultural artefact and played around with it," says Root. "To people like me and Michael, it is the Daddy of all the television we later did." The reason that particular *Arena* is so popular with the new generation controlling television is that they, too, are the products of television, itself a popular artefact. "I was totally obsessed," says Root. "From keeping the entire family silent during *Star Trek* as a kid, to starting my own film society when I was at sixth-form college. I have always been a fan. We all have."

While Michael Jackson did Media Studies at the Polytechnic of Central London, Root studied International Relations at Sussex University. "But alongside my degree I spent all my time doing film studies and any option I could on any of the media."

Jane Root's appointment marks the way that people who grew up with television have now taken it over. They have replaced the generations whose roots were either Oxbridge and journalism or the world of variety theatre.

The Polytechnic of Central London's media studies course was one of the first in the country, when the discipline was still heavily influenced by the Sixties explosion in structuralism: television is being run now by people who learned first how to take it apart. That is why Root doesn't find it quite so surprising as the rest of us that two people who worked on the same television show 12 years ago have ended up running



MICHAEL JACKSON, 40
Education: Polytechnic of Central London. Way into TV: Organiser of lobby group for creation of Channel 4; became controller of BBC 2 in 1993. BBC 1 in 1996. Now: Chief executive of Channel 4



MAL YOUNG, 41
Education: Liverpool College of Art. Way into TV: Script-writer on 'Brookside'; head of Channel 5 drama. Now: BBC head of drama series



JANE ROOT, 41 Education: University of Sussex. Way into TV: Researcher at British Film Institute; set up independent production company Wall to Wall; joined BBC in 1996. Now: Controller of BBC 2



SUE FARR, 42
Education: University of Reading. Way into TV: Marketing background; communications director for Thames TV. Now: Director of communications and marketing, BBC



PETER SALMON, 42
Education: University of Warwick. Way into TV: Newspaper reporter; head of factual at Channel 4. Now: Controller of BBC 1



**THE WORD
ON THE
STREET**

A POSTSCRIPT to our story last Friday, which questioned whether *The Guardian* acted with two MPs to name Dominic Lawson, the editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, as an MI6 agent. We suggested that *The Guardian's* interest might not be unconnected to Lawson's role when he was at *The Spectator* in getting Richard "KGB" Gott to quit *The Guardian*. "How dare you accuse us of holding a grudge," a *Guardian* employee warned. "We'll get you, you bastards."

IN CYBERSPACE, no one can hear you scream, particularly on the "Friends of Conrad Black" homepage, the loneliest corner of the Internet. But first you have to find it. The usual web directories reckon there are 648 sites devoted in whole or part to the Canadian media magnate. Crikey, no time to go through all those, so we settle for a quick blast from the "Conrad Black Waltz" site. A sample verse: "He rattles my cage/ He pulls on my chain/ He owns 100 per cent of my brain/ It simplifies thinking/ So I can't complain/ I live under Conrad Black's reign". My name's Boris Johnson, goodnight.

RICHARD BRANSON seems to be having as much joy entering Chinese airspace as he is operating a rail franchise. Anyway, like the 08.17 to Manchester, we digress. The transport correspondent of one august broadsheet thought he would go to his paper's Christmas party as a Virgin Railways conductor. Virgin were only too willing to oblige. The uniform arrived—but too late to be any use.

Time for out with the old, and in with the new

After 30 years of success, 'Time Out', the Londoner's listings bible, is getting a revamped look and a different emphasis. By Rhys Williams

THE ACCUSATION periodically levelled at Tony Elliott, founder and publisher of *Time Out*, is that he has only ever had one good idea. If that is true, it was a better one than most of us will ever have.

Thirty years ago, Elliott invested in a single commodity called information, and his status as a millionaire international publisher is probably more a testament to its enduring value than the talents he has variously assembled on Tottenham Court Road.

The London listings weekly has just celebrated 30, mostly happy, years. It failed to spot the first year of punk and there was the strike over equal pay in 1981 which, like a bad dose of acne, kept the then teenager off the streets for a few months. However, for most of its history *Time Out* has been out there on its own, unchallenged, successful in a comfort zone of *de facto* monopoly.

But that is changing. There is a new editor, Vicky Mayer, talking about a fresh approach and there are nervous glances towards a quartet of thrusting young rival titles – the listings supplements that now come free every week with *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Times* and the *Evening Standard* represent 1 million copies of competition. From a

circulation high of 108,000 (special editions can sometimes top 130,000) four years ago, the last ABC saw *Time Out* slip to 98,000. The next return is expected to be lower.

The onset of middle age, and pulling power on the wane – time for a wholesale make-over, the magazine equivalent of a visit by Carol Smillie and the team from *Changing Rooms*? Elliott prefers to talk in terms of "100,000-mile service" – change the plugs, clean the filter, new treads;

campaigning zeal that the *Standard* under Max Hastings appears to have misplaced. Its consumer section needs sharpening ("We screwed up on this whole wallpaper, interior design boom"), its writing made more accessible ("for the benefit of the readers, rather than ourselves or other critics").

Above all, he says, *Time Out* London must learn from its younger sister in New York which, after just over three years, is selling 65,000 copies a week, and is close to breaking

News will help, but so will what he dubs "service journalism" – specials on specific areas of town, cheap eats, best bars and so on. "In my opinion a lot of editors care about it, but decide that somehow it's a bit boring for the reader when in fact that's precisely what they want to keep."

A former features editor of *TV Times* and *Options*, Mayer, 34, launched *Inside Soap* magazine in 1992, took it from monthly to fortnightly, before going to Australia where she was editorial director of the antipodean equivalent of *Sugar*.

"Londoners don't all live in Notting Hill, work in advertising and earn 50 grand," she says. "Not everyone goes clubbing or to the cinema. They are eating, drinking and shopping. We need to reflect that without dumbing down. If there's a new gadget shop on Ken High Street, for instance, we need to write about it."

"There's also the reality that it's difficult to live in London, particularly for people in their early twenties. Rents are high and it's hard to get around, and that can put you off. We have to be writing about that, about transport, rents, unscrupulous landlords, how to get your deposit back. No other publication is campaigning on behalf of London at the moment."

'Not all Londoners live in Notting Hill, work in advertising, and earn 50 grand'

oh yes, and a new driver too.

"I'm sort of happy with *Time Out*," he says. "But it needs a change, and to the best way to do that is from outside. It just needs that fresh infusion of personality to wake everything up a little bit. Everyone interviewed said all the opening pages needed to be radically changed – we need to reflect more urgently what's happening in London."

Specifically, Elliott would like to see its news coverage expanded and infused with the

even. If there has been a criticism of the UK magazine in recent years it is that while it has been an excellent cultural handbook – often the first and most comprehensive word on what's new and where it can be seen – it has not necessarily reflected London life in the way that the American title smells of Manhattan. It may have been, in part, a media creation but it took two American publications (*Newsweek* and *Vanity Fair*) to realise that London was the centre of cool again.

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NEW FILMS

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
Directed by Brenda Chapman, Simon Wells.

Steve Hickner
Voiced by: Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes.

DreamWorks houchou Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged his cartoon *Life of Moses*, "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way

of Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritz Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Phoenix Cinema, Plaza, Ritz Cinema, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

In the follow-up to *Babe*, knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritz Cinema, Ritz Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

BLADE (18)

A techno soundtrack bumps and grinds behind this monotonous arcade-game thriller about a New York vampire-killer tackling a power-crazed new bloodsucker. Noise and martial-arts action mask its tatty pedigree. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE BOYS (18)

Out of jail after serving a sentence for GBH, oldest "boy" Brett Sprague (David Wenham) moves back into his mum's drab suburban home, terrifies his girlfriend and turns his younger brothers into petty henchmen. *The Boys* spotlights the downside of life Down Under - it's potent, predatory stuff. West End: Metro, Ritz Cinema

DANCING AT LUGHNASA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, this Ireland-set *Boys* is given backbone by Meryl Streep's regal performance. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Nothing Hill Coronet, Rio Cinema

DEAD MAN'S CURVE (15)

Writer-director Dan Rosen must have had some terrible experiences at university. All the students at his nameless American college are trying to butcher each other, led into temptation by an obscure regulation that awards straight-A grades to the room-mates of suicides. Though not as deliciously nasty as the *Scream* films, *Dead Man's Curve* delivers a respectable quota of drive-in shocks. West End: ABC Piccadilly

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

SEASIDE LOATHING IN LAS VEGAS (18)

Gillian's adaptation tilts at Ralph Steadman cartoonery for its tale of a drug-fuelled journalistic assignment. The film soon descends into a carnival of narcotic lunacy, with the one stand-out being Johnny Depp - who brings Hunter S Thompson into bald-headed, pigeon-toed life. West End: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Ritz Cinema, Virgin Haymarket

RONIN (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker star in this hit-and-miss affair. West End: Elephant & Castle Coronet, Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritz Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS (18)

See *The Independent Recommends*, right. West End: ABC Piccadilly, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE (18)

Once ridiculously held up as a video nasty, Tobe Hooper's thrill-shop chiller is, rather, a unholy celebration of the blood-lust urges within white-trash America, ushering a bunch of generic teens to their doom among a family of unemployed slaughtermen. Explicit violence is thin on the ground; instead it's the alien, voodoo mood which dominates. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

The latest comedy from the tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an exceptionally bland cake. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

VELVET GOLDMINE (18)

Jonathan Rhys Myers plays a Bowie-esque idol in glitter make-up; his friend and mentor Curt Wild (Ewan McGregor) is a self-destructive US rocker in the Lou Reed-Iggy Pop mould. The story of how these characters are bound together is told in a film brimming with intelligent ideas. West End: Curzon Soho, Rio Cinema

LA VIE REVEE DES ANGES (THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS) (18)

Iris (Elodie Bouchez) is a gamine but impoversished drifter who meets Marie (Natacha Regnier) while temping at a clothes sweatshop. They become friends and move in together in a stunning first feature for Erick Zonca. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minima, Phoenix Cinema, Screen on the Green, Virgin Fulham Road

THE WISDOM OF CROCODILES (15)

Jude Law plays a contemporary vampire who judges and dines his victims before he goes for the jugular. West End: ABC Panton Street

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics struggles amid a lot of colourful duels and clattering set-pieces. West End: ABC Baker Street, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritz Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MULAN (U)

In Disney's animated feature, a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from the certain death of combat. This set-up has got it all: a pro-active heroine who does not want to tend a man or pet woodland animals; a strong father/daughter relationship; honour and humility; and, of course, cross-dressing. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation and emotional sympathy - driven by searily intense performance by Peter Mullan (right) as a recovering alcoholic.



Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast headed by Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Good fun, and Allen's best work in a while.

Slums of Beverly Hills (15)

Tamara Jenkins's feature debut is a modest but winning rites-of-passage movie about a family coping with poverty in LA's richest suburb. Alan Arkin gives an acting masterclass as the dad.

Ronin (15)

John Frankenheimer's action thriller is buttressed by a fine international cast (Robert De Niro, Jean Reno, Stellan Skarsgård), moody French locations and a clutch of supercharged car chases.

It's a Wonderful Life (U, Curzon Soho)

Despite its reputation as a national treasure, Frank Capra's hymn to smalltown selflessness is fraught with all kinds of contradictions and blind spots. James Stewart, granted a vision of how life would have been had he never been born, is magnificent in the lead role.

ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Martin Guerre

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds. It's third time lucky for this much-rewritten Boublil/Schonberg musical. In Connal Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb



The Invention of Love

Theatre Royal, Haymarket. Witty fantasia by Tom Stoppard on the twin passions of AE Housman: scholarship and an unavailable heterosexual friend. To 4 Apr

Hindle Wakes

Royal Exchange, Manchester.

After its spectacular refurbishment following the 1996 bombing, the theatre bounces back to life in fine resilient form with this excellent production (right), which had to be aborted then. To 9 Jan

Copenhagen

Cottesloe, National Theatre. Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 27 Jan

The Boy Who Fell Into a Book

Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough. Typically witty and ingenious concept from Alan Ayckbourn - here wearing his children's dramatist hat. To 9 Jan

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Louise Bourgeois

Serpentine Gallery.

Louise Bourgeois

French-American sculptress, still a leading light at 87, shows new installations in which a giant mother/spider presides over images of spinning and weaving, restoration and decay. To 10 Jan



Edward Burne-Jones

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Edward Burne-Jones

This centenary exhibition gathers together many old favourites (right) illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

Claude Lorrain

British Museum.

One hundred drawings by the great French classical landscape painter, including his remarkably vivid outdoor studies of woods and streams. To 10 Jan

Bridget Riley

Abbott Hall, Kendal.

A small retrospective, spanning the career of top British abstractionist Riley - from the shimmering monochromes of her early Sixties Op Art fame, to colour, stripes, diagonals and curves. To 31 Jan

Chris Ofili

Whitworth Gallery, Manchester.

The 1998 Turner Prize winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.40pm Rush Hour 1.15pm, 3pm, 3.30pm, 5.15pm, 6.30pm, 7.30pm, 9pm, 9.30pm Small Soldiers 1.40pm, 6.15pm

EALING

VIRGIN UBIRIDGE ROAD (0870-9070719) BR Ealing Broadway 11.30am, 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.05pm Rush Hour 6.40pm, 8.40pm

EDGWARE

EDGWARE (0181-3142229) BR Edgware Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm

EDIMONTON

EDIMONTON (01990-888990) BR Tottenham Hale Antz 11.50am, 2.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm

EDEN VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) BR Tottenham Hale Antz 11.50am, 2.10pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm

EDENWOOD (0181050007) BR: Beckenham Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm

EDENWOOD (0181050007) BR: Beckenham Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm

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EDENWOOD (0181050007) BR: Beckenham Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.20pm, 3.20pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm

EDENWOOD (0181050007) BR: Beckenham Antz 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) **+** Belize
Park Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm,
3.40pm, 6pm Out of Sight 8.10pm
The Parent Trap 2.20pm, 5.25pm,
8.10pm The Prince of Egypt
1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

HARROW
SAFARI (0181-426 0303) **+** Harrow-on-the-Hill Antz
5pm Doll Salakat Raksha 1.30pm,
5pm Fire 8.45pm Kudrat 8.45pm
The Soldier (Asian Film) 1.30pm,
5pm

HARROW
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 909) **+** Harrow-on-the-Hill Antz
11.40am, 1.40pm, 3.40pm,
5.40pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm Babe: Pig
in the City 10.40am, 11.10am,
1.10pm, 3.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm
Blade 4.45pm, 6.20pm The Mask
of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.20pm,
5.25pm, 8.30pm Mulan 10.45am,
12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm The
Negotiator 9.10pm Out of Sight
6.05pm, 8.45pm The Parent Trap
10.15am, 1.05pm, 3.55pm,
6.45pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour
6.35pm, 9pm Slums of Beverly Hills
7pm, 9.15pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) **+** Surrey
Quays Antz 11.15am, 1.30pm,
3.45pm, 6.10pm The Mask 1.30am,
1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm
Blade 2.40pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 9.10pm The Mask
of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm,
6.30pm, 9.30pm Mulan 11am,
1.30pm The Negotiator 8.40pm
Out of Sight 6.50pm, 9.50pm The
Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm,
6.15pm The Prince of Egypt
10.45am, 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm,
8.30pm Ronin 7pm,
9.40pm Rush Hour 11.45am,
2.15pm, 4.45pm, 6.20pm,
7.15pm, 9pm 9.40pm Small
Soldiers 10.05am, 12.55pm,
2.45pm, 4.45pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (08705 050007) **+** Archway Antz 12.20pm, 2.15pm,
4.15pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in the
City 1.30pm, 3.45pm The Mask
of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm,
5.30pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt
1.15pm, 3.40pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm,
8.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm,
2.20pm, 3.50pm, 4.35pm, 6.15pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.05pm Small
Soldiers 12.35pm

ILFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) **+** Gants
Hill Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro
1.50pm, 8pm, 8.10pm The Negotiator
8pm Out of Sight 8.15pm
The Parent Trap 11.55am, 2.30pm,
5.30pm The Prince of Egypt
11.40am, 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm,
8.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm,
3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

KILBURN
Tricity Theatre (0171-328 1000)
+ Kilburn Dancing at Lughnasa
6.30pm Mulan 1.30pm, 4pm Out
of Sight 8.45pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)
BR: Kingston Antz 6.10pm Babe:
Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.25pm The
Parent Trap 2pm, 5.10pm, 8pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm,
6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) **+** Highgate
Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10am,
2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out
of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap
12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm The Prince
of Egypt 11.55am, 2.05pm,
4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

OXFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) **+** Gants
Hill Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm,
3.35pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro
1.50pm, 8pm, 8.10pm The Negotiator
8pm Out of Sight 8.15pm
The Parent Trap 11.55am, 2.30pm,
5.30pm The Prince of Egypt
11.40am, 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm,
8.30pm Rush Hour 1.30pm,
3.50pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm

UXBRIDGE
ODEON (08705 050007)
Bridgwater Antz 1pm, 3pm Out
of Sight 8.45pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ODEON (0870-9020424) **+** Waltham-
stow Central Antz 6.50pm Babe:
Pig in the City 2.20pm, 4.40pm The
Parent Trap 2pm, 5pm, 8pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm,
6pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour 8.30pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) **+** South
Wimbledon Antz 12.15pm Babe:
Pig in the City 1.10am, 1.50pm,
3.50pm The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm,
5.05pm The Prince of Egypt
1.20pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-
252852) BR: Walton on Thames The
Mask of Zorro 2.55pm, 8.15pm The
Parent Trap 2.40pm The Prince of
Egypt 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm,
6.30pm, 8.45pm

WILLOW HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) **+** High-
gate Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10am,
2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm Out
of Sight 8.25pm The Parent Trap
12.15pm, 3pm, 5.45pm The Prince
of Egypt 11.55am, 2.05pm,
4.30pm, 6.45pm, 9pm

WILTON
ODEON (0870-9020407) BR: Purley
Babe: Pig in the City 2.10pm,
4.10pm The Parent Trap 2.05pm,
5.05pm, 8.05pm The Prince of
Egypt 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm,
8.25pm Rush Hour 6.20pm,
8.35pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley
Bridge/BR: Purley Antz 6pm Babe:
Pig in the City 1.35pm, 3.30pm Out
of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap
2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/
Richmond The Mask of Zorro
2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 8pm Rush Hour 1.40pm,
4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007)
BR/FR: Richmond Antz 1.30pm,
3.40pm Babe: Pig in the City
1.30pm, 3.40pm Dancing at Lugh-
nasa 7pm, 9.20pm Mulan 1.20pm
The Negotiator 8.40pm The Parent
Trap 12.30pm, 5pm, 8pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.10pm,
5.50pm, 8.50pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford
Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm,
3.30pm, 6.10pm The Parent Trap
2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 8pm Rush Hour 1.40pm,
4pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) **+** Putney
Bridge/BR: Putney Antz 6pm Babe:
Pig in the City 1.35pm, 3.30pm Out
of Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap
2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm

RUTHERFORD
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Rutherford
Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig in the
City 1.30pm, 3.30pm Out of
Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap
2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm

SANDYHILL
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup
Antz 6.10pm Babe: Pig in the
City 1.30pm, 4pm Elizabeth 8.15pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070171) BR: Crickle-
wood Antz 12.15pm, 2.15pm,
4.30pm, 6.45pm Babe: Pig in the
City 1.30pm, 3.30pm Out of
Sight 8.15pm The Parent Trap
2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm The
Prince of Egypt 1.10pm, 3.40pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR:
Streatham Hill Antz 4.20pm,
8.35pm Babe: Pig in the City
2.10pm, 6.20pm Out of Sight
5.30pm, 8.20pm The Prince of
Egypt 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm,
8.45pm Small Soldiers 2.25pm

THEATRE
WEST END
STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (555 3366) BR/
Stratford East Babe: Pig in the
City 1.25pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm The
Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.05pm, 4.35pm,
6.45pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour
1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

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6.45pm, 8.55pm Rush Hour
1.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1

975-99.8MHz FM
6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 8.00 Steve Lamacq. - the Evening Session 9a. 10.00 John Peel. 12.00 The Breezeblock. 2.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2

(88.902MHz FM)
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Evelyn Glennie's Classics. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00 Annual Delights. See *Pick of the Day*. 10.00 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Bizet.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R) 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Diva!

4.45 Music to Die For. 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Slatkin.

7.00 Christmas Cocktails. 7.30 Performance on 3. Another chance to hear ten of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 BBC Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, London. 2: Prom 40, given on 18 August. David Wilson-Johnson (baritone), BBC Singers, BBC Symphony Orchestra/Oliver Knussen and Stephen Cleobury.

Messiaen: *L'ascension*; George Benjamin: *Sometime Voices*; Robin Holloway: *Hymn to the Senses*; Scriabin: *The Poem of Ecstasy*. (R)

9.00 Postscript. Comedian and broadcaster Rainer Hersch presents five personal and idiosyncratic studies of the music of our century. 2: *The Best Alive or Dead*. Who were the great musicians of the century?

9.20 Celebrity Trio. Thomas Ze-

PICK OF THE DAY

FOR MANY, Christmas has become a crassly commercial, TV-dominated festival. But for some, it is still the time of year when we celebrate the arrival of the *Blue Peter* annual. In *Annual Delights* (9pm R2) Hugh Dennis surveys the history of the annual, from its Victorian origins to the first recognisably modern children's annuals.

ROBERT BANKS



hetmair (violin), Tabea Zimmermann (viola), Heinrich Schiff (cello). Schubert: String Trio in B flat, D471. Schoenberg: String Trio, Op 45. Mozart: Divertimento in E flat, K563.

10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. Six programmes in which Robert Cushman presents a personal view of musicals, with songs from original cast recordings - some familiar, some less well known. 1: 'New Shows, Older Voices'. See *Pick of the Day*.

11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Bach. (R)

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS: The Choice.

9.30 Carols for Choirs.

9.45 Serial: Scraps with Iannucci.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: A Wolf to the North: Fear.

11.30 Pollyanna.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Full Orchestra.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

3.00 NEWS: The Exchange: 0171 500 4444.

3.30 Beating the System.

3.45 Colonel Clay - Master of Disguise.

4.00 NEWS: A Good Read.

4.30 Shop Talk.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 4 at the Store.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.15 Front Row. Francine Stock chairs the arts programme, including the verdict on 'The Acid House', a new film based on the stories of Irvine Welsh.

7.45 Under One Roof. The first of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories. With Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (2/5).

8.00 NEWS: A Mission to Civilise. Orléane Quist-Arcton explores the secretive ties that bind France to her former colonies in Africa. 2: 'Senegal - the Cultural Revolution'. Senegal was once France's first colony in Africa. This programme examines the French cultural legacy in Africa and asks why more and more Senegalese seem to be turning their backs on Paris.

8.40 In Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people.

9.00 NEWS: Case Notes: Transplants and Transfusions. Blood transfusions, donated organs, fetal cell grafts - Graham Easton looks at the future of spare-part medicine.

9.30 The Choice. Michael Buerk talks to individuals who have made life-changing choices, taking them through the whole process, from the initial dilemma to living with the consequences.

10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Chosen for Christmas. Five stars read their chosen seasonal tale. 2: Joss Ackland reads *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas.

11.00 The Now Show. Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis present a cavalcade of cutting-edge comedy with the regular team of Simon Munnery, Jane Bussmann, David Quantick, Nick Romeo and Dan Freedman.

11.30 Talking Pictures.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: Out of Her Senses.

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.

12.00 - 12.44 News: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

11.30-12.00 Parliament.

RADIO 5 LIVE (93.909kHz MW)

6.00 Breakfast.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Ruscoe and Co.

4.00 Drive.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 The Life and Death of Belfast Celtic. Fifty years ago, Belfast Celtic were the finest football team in Ireland. But on 22 December 1948 their reign came to a dramatic and final end. George Best presents the first of two programmes looking at the life and death of Belfast Celtic.

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SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

PUBLICITY BUMPF used to dub Ingrid Bergman (right) 'Sweden's greatest export since Garbo', and for once the hype contained a grain of truth. Her luminous screen presence lit up many Hollywood movies from the time she came to America in the late 1930s. In perhaps her most famous role, she played opposite Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca*. He credited her with bringing out in him a previously undetected capacity

JAMES RAMPTON



for screen romance. "I didn't do anything I've never done before," he said, "but when the camera moves in on her face, and she's saying she loves you, it would make anybody look romantic." She is profiled in *Hollywood Hall of Fame* (9.30pm Sky Cinema), which is followed by *Notorious* (10pm), the classic Alfred Hitchcock wartime thriller in which she stars with Cary Grant.

1.00 Days of Our Lives (9.55-9.58). 1.55 The Special K Collection (7.55-7.58). 2.00 The Special K Collection (8.55-8.58). 2.55 The Special K Collection (9.55-9.58). 3.55 The Special K Collection (10.55-10.58). 4.00 Best of Guilty (10.55-10.58). 4.45 Best of Guilty (11.55-11.58). 5.25 The Special K Collection (12.55-12.58). 5.55 The Special K Collection (13.55-13.58). 6.15 The Special K Collection (14.55-14.58). 6.45 The Special K Collection (15.55-15.58). 7.00 The Special K Collection (16.55-16.58). 7.30 The Special K Collection (17.55-17.58). 7.55 The Special K Collection (18.55-18.58). 8.00 The Special K Collection (19.55-19.58). 8.30 The Special K Collection (20.55-20.58). 8.55 The Special K Collection (21.55-21.58). 9.00 The Special K Collection (22.55-22.58). 9.30 The Special K Collection (23.55-23.58). 9.55 The Special K Collection (24.55-24.58). 10.00 The Special K Collection (25.55-25.58). 10.30 The Special K Collection (26.55-26.58). 10.55 The Special K Collection (27.55-27.58). 11.00 The Special K Collection (28.55-28.58). 11.30 The Special K Collection (29.55-29.58). 11.55 The Special K Collection (30.55-30.58). 12.00 The Special K Collection (31.55-31.58). 12.30 The Special K Collection (32.55-32.58). 12.55 The Special K Collection (33.55-33.58). 13.00 The Special K Collection (34.55-34.58). 13.30 The Special K Collection (35.55-35.58). 13.55 The Special K Collection (36.55-36.58). 14.00 The Special K Collection (37.55-37.58). 14.30 The Special K Collection (38.55-38.58). 14.55 The Special K Collection (39.55-39.58). 15.00 The Special K Collection (40.55-40.58). 15.30 The Special K Collection (41.55-41.58). 15.55 The Special K Collection (42.55-42.58). 16.00 The Special K Collection (43.55-43.58). 16.30 The Special K Collection (44.55-44.58). 16.55 The Special K Collection (45.55-45.58). 17.00 The Special K Collection (46.55-46.58). 17.30 The Special K Collection (47.55-47.58). 17.55 The Special K Collection (48.55-48.58). 18.00 The Special K Collection (49.55-49.58). 18.30 The Special K Collection (50.55-50.58). 18.55 The Special K Collection (51.55-51.58). 19.00 The Special K Collection (52.55-52.58). 19.30 The Special K Collection (53.55-53.58). 19.55 The Special K Collection (54.55-54.58). 20.00 The Special K Collection (55.55-55.58). 20.30 The Special K Collection (56.55-56.58). 20.55 The Special K Collection (57.55-57.58). 21.00 The Special K Collection (58.55-58.58). 21.30 The Special K Collection (59.55-59.58). 21.55 The Special K Collection (60.55-60.58). 22.00 The Special K Collection (61.55-61.58). 22.30 The Special K Collection (62.55-62.58). 22.55 The Special K Collection (63.55-63.58). 23.00 The Special K Collection (64.55-64.58). 23.30 The Special K Collection (65.55-65.58). 23.55 The Special K Collection (66.55-66.58). 24.00 The Special K Collection (67.55-67.58). 24.30 The Special K Collection (68.55-68.58). 24.55 The Special K Collection (69.55-69.58). 25.00 The Special K Collection (70.55-70.58). 25.30 The Special K Collection (71.55-71.58). 25.55 The Special K Collection (72.55-72.58). 26.00 The Special K Collection (73.55-73.58). 26.30 The Special K Collection (74.55-74.58). 26.55 The Special K Collection (75.55-75.58). 27.00 The Special K Collection (76.55-76.58). 27.30 The Special K Collection (77.55-77.58). 27.55 The Special K Collection (78.55-78.58). 28.00 The Special K Collection (79.55-79.58). 28.30 The Special K Collection (80.55-80.58). 28.55 The Special K Collection (81.55-81.58). 29.00 The Special K Collection (82.55-82.58). 29.30 The Special K Collection (83.55-83.58). 29.55 The Special K Collection (84.55-84.58). 30.00 The Special K Collection (85.55-85.58). 30.30 The Special K Collection (86.55-86.58). 30.55 The Special K Collection (87.55-87.58). 31.00 The Special K Collection (88.55-88.58). 31.30 The Special K Collection (89.55-89.58). 31.55 The Special K Collection (90.55-90.58). 32.00 The Special K Collection (91.55-91.58). 32.30 The Special K Collection (92.55-92.58). 32.55 The Special K Collection (93.55-93.58). 33.00 The Special K Collection (94.55-94.58).

